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FACTFINDING MISSION TO YEMEN REPORTEDLY APPROVED

JN160924Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 1[illegible] July--Quoting well-informed sources in Cairo, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reports that a number of Arab countries have approved the formation of an Arab military mission to investigate facts on the YAR-PDRY border.

The paper says that Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti and Sudanese officers will participate in the mission. The paper adds that the next move is to commission high-ranking officers from certain Arab countries and the Arab League Military General Secretariat to leave for San'a' and Aden and to carry out field tours [words indistinct].

KUWAIT

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED IN PARIS JOURNAL

LD152023Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jul 78 LD

[Text] His highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, has given an interview to the Paris 'AN-NAHAR AL-ARABI WA AD-DUWALI'. The enterview, in which he spoke about local and Arab affairs, especially ones relating to the gulf region, was published today.

His highness expressed optimism that Arab solidarity would return soon and said that his optimism was based on facts. His highness answered a question about the return of parliamentary life and confirmed that it will of course return. He said that the dissolution of the former National Assembly provided a pause for reflection and study of the work of previous national assemblies and a review of the positive and negative results of developments during the past years. Furthermore, public interest calls for a period of sufficient reflection on Kuwait's present and future.

His highness answered a question concerning the halting of publication of a number of local newspapers lately. He said: This was done because some newspapers had crossed the acceptable limits and added that he knew that Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali, deputy prime minister and minister of information, was hesitant to implement the article providing for the halting of publication of the newspapers. However, increasing transgressions forced him to use his powers. His highness confirmed that he supports freedom of expression and opinion--within the limits defined by and provided for in the publications law.

Answering a question about Kuwaiti nationality his highness said: Talk about this issue is premature, and the urgent issue now is to press ahead with the study of the new nationality law in preparation for its implementation. He hoped that study of this law would end in the coming few weeks.

His highness spoke about local construction and various laws. He said: The realization of the laws, especially the recent passing of the law of guarantee [ar daman], the rent law and others, is part of the implementation of the government's policy approved by his highness the amir. These laws demonstrate the government's interest in social problems. His highness added that the university law, the new publication law, the new nationality law and the public office law have been drafted--these laws aim at reforming government departments and the organization of society. He said: We do not rush matters and we accept discussion on any law proposed.

His highness answered a question on whether Kuwait had completed arming itself after the deals concluded with more than one state. He said: No country can say that it has completed arming itself in quantity and quality. Every year new weapons are being invented or old weapons are being improved; however, I can say that commanders of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces closely follow the development of the arms industry and look for new arms. He added: We now send more of our youth abroad to train in new arms usage and maintenance. He added: We have progressed greatly in arming the armed forces and, at the moment, we are concentrating on building our navy. We also study proposals we receive from countries concerning military boats to decide what types suit us best.

Concerning plans for Kuwait after the oil resources are exhausted, his highness said: Of course, we think of the future of our children and grandchildren, and the concerned quarters are carrying out studies aimed at finding sources of income other than oil which will secure Kuwait's bright future, God willing. The necessary steps have been taken, including, as an example, the creation of a reserve fund for future generations.

On developments in the regions surrounding the gulf, his highness said that there is competition between the superpowers for influence in this important region of the world. His highness said that there are contacts concerning the present and future of the gulf region and that the first and final word in this context rests with the people alone. His highness said: We are continuing our contacts with all our brother officials in the gulf countries to achieve further cooperation and coordination on matters which achieve more stability and security in this vital region of the world. His highness announced that Kuwait would strive to hold a meeting of the region's foreign ministers in the near future to achieve the desired stability.

His highness answered a question on the agreements signed with Iraq and the extent of their implementation and said that he informed the Council of Ministers of those agreements which blessed them and left their implementation to the foreign minister. The concerned quarters are working to assist the minister in implementing the agreement. His highness added: I would like to say that the agreements which were signed with Iraq have been successful and that contacts with the brothers in Iraq will continue because they are useful. He said: We believe that meetings are always constructive and positive because they create an atmosphere of dialog and understanding and lead to the removal of ambiguities and the solving of all outstanding problems.

YEMEN--PDRY

PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL LAYS DOWN BASES FOR DIALOG WITH YAR

LD141758Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] Here is a statement issued by the Presidential Council on the current Yemeni situation:

Our heroic people: The Presidential Council continues to observe the progress of the plot hatched by circles hostile to our Yemeni people and the feverish propaganda campaigns, hysterical provocations and heightening of tension. We remain determined to take a responsible stand, maintain self-control and exercise reason, since we bear a historic responsibility toward our people--our first and last support--to preserve the sons of the one homeland from the agony of a destructive war which no one wants.

Our sincere desire springs from the supreme national interest of our Yemeni people, who love peace and stability, and from our policy of self-confidence and courage and our resistance to the designs of the enemies of our people who are trying to widen the rift of conflict and deepen the political dispute to the point of military conflict between the sons of the one homeland.

We continue to call on our brothers to engage in an objective and responsible dialog, to exercise reason, to avoid getting involved in hostile designs that only serve the enemies of the Yemeni people, to prevent any hostile foreign interference in our internal affairs and to allow Yemenis to deal with their country, its prosperity and progress.

Our proud people: The Presidential Council has followed the statements made by brother officials in the northern part of the homeland with interest, and particularly the recent statement made by the foreign minister on sending an Arab committee to visit the borders of the two parts of Yemen.

Before sending the committee, the Presidential Council deems it necessary to reconsider the resolutions adopted by certain Arab states against our country at the Cairo meeting of 2 July 1978. With this proviso in mind, the Presidential Council would not oppose the dispatch of an Arab committee formed from the Arab League states so that the Arab League can take an unbiased view. The Presidential Council considers this to be the correct procedure if the intention really is to clear the air between the brothers and to prevent an entrenchment of the error into which certain Arab states, that have instigated the adoption of fanatical resolutions, have fallen.

The Presidential Council affirms our people's respect for the resolutions of Arab states which support the policy of Arab solidarity against the enemies of the Arab peoples and their progress.

Our steadfast people are more able than ever before, with the support of world and Arab progressive forces, to defend the immortal revolutions of 26 September and 14 October.

The Presidential Council reaffirms its readiness to meet and hold an earnest dialog with the brothers in the northern part of the homeland wherever they wish: in San'a', Aden, or in any other Arab capital, and at any level, to discuss issues concerning our Yemeni people and the future of their revolutions.

In our view, our brotherly dialog should be based on the following principles:
1. The halting of propaganda campaigns and their replacement by responsible information in keeping with the wishes of our great people.
2. The withdrawal of the troops massed on the borders between the two parts of the homeland, wherever they are, the removal of the sabotage camps and the halting of provocations in order to preserve our people from a destructive war.
3. The opening of the borders and the resumption of land, air and sea communications and the restoration of normal life.
4. The resumption of economic activity and trade exchanges between the two parts of Yemen.
5. We support the unity of our Yemeni people, and we reiterate, with full consciousness, our commitment to our documents.

To achieve these noble objectives, it will be necessary to resume the dialog between the brothers and the work of the unity and coordination committees to find the right atmosphere for this brotherly dialog, and to work to preserve the national sovereignty of Yemen.

In putting forward these proposals, we affirm the sincerity of our desire for an earnest and responsible dialog with our brothers. We are quite prepared to discuss any points or proposals submitted by the brothers in the northern part of the homeland concerning the vital interests of our people.

In the name of the martyrs who fell to liberate our people and make our homeland sovereign, we desire that the brother officials in the northern part of the homeland should renounce the intrigues of hostile circles which are aimed at dragging our people to the brink of war from which none will benefit except the enemies of the Yemeni people, who are seeking to obstruct progress and unity.

We are confident that all honorable nationalists in all parts of Yemen will give their backing to any attempt to deal with problems wisely and with restraint, in order to achieve progress and unity. It is vital to us all to banish the specter of war from our Yemeni homeland, and indeed, from the entire Arabian Peninsula and the gulf.

We appeal to all the peoples and states of the region to confound our enemies and to work for stability, progress and prosperity for all the peoples of the region.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY APPROVES FACTFINDING COMMITTEE

JN161400Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 16 July--The PDRY Government has informed the Arab League of its willingness to receive any Arab mission sent to investigate the situation on its border with the YAR on the condition that the Arab League reconsiders its boycott decisions against the PDRY. The acting permanent representative of the PDRY Government has delivered a memo in this regard to the Arab League General Secretariat. He also met this morning with Muhammad al-Farra, assistant secretary general, and discussed the developments between his country and the YAR with him. He also discussed the arrangements regarding the military committee that the North Yemeni Government has called for to investigate the situation on the two countries' borders.

An Arab League source has stated that the General Secretariat has held urgent contacts with the Arab governments to notify them about the PRDRY's stand toward sending a fact-finding committee. He also said that there is a possibility of suspending Arab League decisions against the PDRY and that the next few weeks will witness a diplomatic move to ease tension between the two sides.

PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD RECEIVES PALESTINIAN DELEGATION

LD141320Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers, received in his office today a Palestinian delegation led by brother Hani al-Hasan, personal envoy of brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, with brother (Saqr) as member of the delegation.

A cordial discussion took place between the brother chairman of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers and the Palestinian delegation. It dealt with a number of questions concerning the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, the general Arab situation, including the recent developments in the Yemeni arena, and the current situation in the Middle East.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad hailed the Palestinian revolution's solidarity with the PDRY in confronting the conspiracies and acts of aggression to which our Yemeni people are being exposed. He stressed that Democratic Yemen, despite the rabid campaigns and conspiracies it faces, will remain committed to stability in the area in order to concentrate Arab efforts on confronting the imperialist and Zionist enemy and for the victory of the Palestinian people's struggle to recover the occupied Arab territories.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also reaffirmed Democratic Yemen's support for the Palestinian revolution, which aims at fulfilling the aims and wishes of the fraternal Palestinian people.

PARTY SECRETARY ISMA'IL EXPLAINS POLICY TO KUWAITI PAPER

LD161735Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the United Political Organization-National Front [UPONF] has stressed that UPONF's adoption of the course of scientific socialism proceeds basically out of the desire to preserve the higher interests of our Yemeni people in terms of their unity, preservation of their achievements and the protection of the 26 September and 14 October revolutions, as well as that of contributing to the liberation and unity of our Arab nation on the basis of achieving a decent life for the largest number of people.

In a press interview for the Kuwaiti newspaper, AL-QABAS, brother Isma'il said this was the course of our United Political Organization from which we should not deviate. During the interview, the brother secretary general referred to the foiling of the coup attempt of the deviationist group and to the allegations and claims pouring forth from forces hostile to Democratic Yemen. He also spoke about the situation in the Yemeni arena and our country's relations with the other states of the region.

The secretary general explained the measures taken by our political leadership to call the deviationist Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali to account for his abominable acts and his assault on our national democratic regime. Describing the role of the military establishments in foiling the coup attempt, the brother secretary general stressed that our military establishments were committed to the directives of the organization. He explained that it was by virtue of their unity and cohesiveness that they had foiled the reactionary coup and that they would not follow individuals regardless of their identity.

In reply to a question about the massing of troops, brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il said that from our side there was no massing of troops, nor would there be, because we oppose fighting among the Yemenis. He added: We are prepared to sit down anywhere, anytime and at any level with our brothers of the northern part of the homeland to study all our problems and issues and to find the right solutions for them.

He went on to say that we reiterate our just desire to live in peace with all our neighbors provided there is respect for our sovereignty and independence in a manner that will serve the interests of our peoples. He continued: We reject war and interference in internal affairs. He affirmed that the coming together of the revolutions of 26 September and 14 October was a matter of yesterday, today and tomorrow with an established unity about which there was no doubt.

The secretary general hailed our country's close relations with many of the countries of the region which we are constantly working to develop and strengthen. He expressed his pride in Arab people everywhere and for their support and backing for us. He said: We offer our hand to all our brothers in the region to cooperate in ridding our peoples of injustice, liberating our lands, restoring Arab rights and regaining the right of the Palestinian people to their homeland, sovereignty and freedom.

Concerning the decisions of some Arab states at the Cairo meeting of 2 July, the brother secretary general said: The least that can be said of those decisions is that they were taken impetuously. They serve no pan-Arab goal and are contrary to the charter of the Arab League. But what is worse and more bitter is the beating of the wardrums and the blowing of the bugles of battle in a wicked attempt to tear apart our Yemeni people, to enable them [presumably enemies of the Yemenis] to swallow Yemen, its people and land. He added: The blockade and boycott have been imposed upon us in an unlawful manner as if we had been the ones who went to Jerusalem, planted military bases in our land or tore apart the unity of the Arabs.

Concluding his press statement, the brother secretary general stressed that the Arab steadfast confrontation front was growing daily in strength and it had, together with fraternal Iraq, stood firmly on the side of our people during the recent events which were to have struck down our Yemeni people, broken up the front of steadfastness and confrontation and imposed a state of surrender on the entire Arab region.

SOUTH YEMEN FREEDOM RADIO REPORTS ON PDRY ARMY MUTINY

JN151612Y South Yemen Freedom Radio [Clandestine] in Arabic to South Yemen 1300 GMT 15 Jul 78 JN

["Newsreports"]

[Excerpts] Reports confirm the existence of a mutiny within the ranks of the army in South Yemen. Furthermore, many of the districts and provinces in South Yemen have not yet declared their loyalty to the new regime.

Battles are still going on in the area of Al-'Alam between Aden and Abyan. The supporters of Salim Rubayy' 'Ali are led by 'Ali Salih 'Ubad Muqbil, former member of the Central Committee and assistant of Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali.

Despite 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il's control of Aden, the An-Nasr Army Barracks in the heart of the capital has mutinied. Defense Minister 'Ali Antar tried to persuade the barracks commanders to declare their loyalty to the new regime, but they refused to talk to him or allow him to enter the barracks. The Aden authorities used a Cuban force to besiege the barracks.

Reports confirm that despite the victory of the extremist wing led by 'Abd al-Fattah Ismai'il, the situation is still inflamed in Aden. The new regime has not yet been able to establish its domination over the country. There are reports of public disgruntlement and mutiny in the army. The next few days will witness major battles exploding the situation anew.

Reports confirm that 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il's influence does not go beyond Aden and a part of [word indistinct]. The rest of the governorates and provinces are against the regime.

Aden sources say that the resistance against the puppet regime, which is subservient to the Soviet Union, may be weak in Aden itself but is strong in the Second and Third Governorates. Elements hostile to the regime have surrounded a larger number of progovernment forces. Thus, the regime of 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il was forced to seek the help of Soviet and Cuban pilots to break the siege on the two governorates and to strike at the rebel elements. Soviet pilots carried out several sorties daily over the regions of Ad-Dali', Abyan, Shaqrah and Yafi destroying houses, burning fields and killing livestock.

YEMEN--YAR

LT COL 'ALI 'ABDALLAH SALIH ELECTED PRESIDENT

JN170928Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 17 July--The People's Constituent Assembly here today elected Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as president of the Yemen Arab Republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ON TOUR TO KUWAIT, SYRIA

JN161354Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received at his office Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj. Brother Al-Asnaj submitted a detailed report to the chairman on his tour of the state of Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic. The president was also briefed on recent developments in the Arabian Peninsula and the gulf and on the fraternal cooperation between the YAR and Syria.

Following the meeting, the foreign minister granted an interview to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY. The minister said that the YAR stresses the need for the Arab League Military Committee to investigate without delay the situation on the border between both Yemens. Brother Al-Asnaj also said that the YAR Government does not see any need for mediation between San'a' and Aden by either Arab or foreign parties because the ruling clique in Aden has destroyed all bridges of dialog between both Yemens after committing the heinous crimes against the late president, Ahmad Husyan al-Ghashmi, and against many other Yemeni officials in San'a', Beirut and London. Aden alone is responsible for its disputes with Arab regimes in this area and with Arab countries in general.

The foreign minister expressed his belief that the concerned Arab countries are fully committed to the decisions of the Arab League Council meeting recently held in Cairo.

AS-SADAT INTERVIEW WITH AUSTRIAN RADIO, TV REPORTED

NC141532Y Cairo MENA 1449 GMT 14 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Salzburg, 14 July--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that there are two basic problems obstructing the solution to the Middle East issue. They are the Palestinian problem and the problem of the West Bank and Gaza.

In an interview with Austrian radio and television before leaving Salzburg today, President as-Sadat called on Israel to withdraw from the Gaza sector and the West Bank, pointing out that if a solution is reached on Gaza and the West Bank, a solution of the Palestinian problem would become easy.

President as-Sadat emphasized that there are no problems with regard to Sinai because its boundaries are known and historically recognized. President as-Sadat denied in his interview that after his meeting with Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres he felt that there was flexibility in the Israeli position.

President as-Sadat explained that he had asked Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres during his meeting with them in Salzburg and Vienna about what Israel really wants and if it really wants peace. President as-Sadat said: If Israel wants peace, I am prepared for this; if it wants security, I am prepared for this; and if it wants good relations, I am also prepared for this.

President as-Sadat went on to say: I asked Peres and Weizman whether Israel is prepared to return the West Bank to King Husayn of Jordan and Gaza to Egypt and whether the Israeli military administration will be withdrawn immediately when an agreement is signed between Egypt and Israel.

In this connection, President as-Sadat said: Let us sit down together--Egypt, Israel and the United Nations--to discuss the future of Gaza, and Israel, Jordan and the United Nations to discuss the future of the West Bank.

Asked if there are any new hopes with regard to the Middle East issue, President as-Sadat said: I am always by nature optimistic.

Asked if minor border changes can be made, President as-Sadat said that this subject can be discussed but with regard to the West Bank alone. President as-Sadat referred in this respect to Resolution 242 regarding Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Asked whether Israel will agree to make concessions, President as-Sadat said: We do not ask Israel to make any concessions with respect to its territory. We are asking it to return our land to us.

Concluding his interview with the Austrian radio and television, President as-Sadat expressed his thanks for the reception and hospitability accorded him by the friendly Austrian people. He also expressed his appreciation of the efforts Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has exerted to give impetus to the peace process and to support the historical initiative to establish peace in the Middle East.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT RETURNS TO EGYPT AFTER TALKS

NC1416242Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1611 GMT 14 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 14 July--President Anwar as-Sadat and the delegation accompanying his excellency returned home at 1720 today following a weeklong visit to Austria.

Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and war minister, returned with his excellency the president. General al-Jamasi had arrived in the Austrian city of Salzburg last Thursday morning. The plane which carried President as-Sadat, his wife and the delegation accompanying his excellency landed at Janaklis airport. His excellency was welcomed at Janaklis airport by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

His excellency the president was also welcomed by Prime Minister Mamduh Salim; Engineer Ahmad Sultan, deputy prime minister for production and minister of electricity; 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi, minister of information and culture; Muhib Istinu, minister of tourism; Nabawi Isma'il, minister of the interior; 'Abd al-Halim Hatatah, governor of Al-Buhayrah; Maj Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, chief of staff; Rear Admiral Ashraf Rif'at, commander of the naval forces; and Maj Gen Mahmud Shakir 'Abd al-Mun'im, commander of the air forces.

After shaking hands with his prominent well-wishers, President as-Sadat, Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Mamduh Salim flew by helicopter to the president's resthouse in Al-Ma'murah.

Comments on Austrian Visit

NC1417032Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 14 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 14 July--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that his trip to Austria has achieved more than one success and that there will be specific and comprehensive results in the near future. President as-Sadat said this upon his return to Alexandria today in answer to a question asked by a journalist about the results of his visit to Austria.

In answering a question, President as-Sadat said: "According to my own viewpoint, the trip has achieved more than one success, and let us wait for the near future because there will be specific and comprehensive results. Furthermore, it is imperative for us to wait for the near future, not for the present."

About the upcoming visit of Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, he said: "We will wait until Weizman arrives in Alexandria to complete his task which he began in Austria. He will tell me what he will have achieved."

The president said that Weizman's upcoming visit will take place after the meeting of the foreign ministers in London.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR HERMANN EILTS

NC1519272Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1904 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 15 July--President Anwar as-Sadat today received the U.S. ambassador to Cairo, Hermann Eilts. Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil attended the meeting.

MENA REPORTS ON DELEGATIONS TO LONDON CONFERENCE

NC151004Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0936 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] London, 15 July--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will arrive in London on Monday at the head of the Egyptian delegation to attend the meetings of the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and the U.S. secretary of state. The meetings begin Tuesday.

The Egyptian delegation will include Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz; 'Abd ar-Ra'uf ar-Raydi and Nabil al-'Arabi, ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry; the director of the foreign minister's office, Ambassador Ahmad Mahir; and Foreign Ministry First Secretary Hamdi Nada.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan are also expected to arrive in London on Monday. They will participate in the meetings which will be held at the Churchill Hotel in the west end of the British capital.

Discussions among the three ministers are scheduled to be resumed on Wednesday. The talks might be extended for another day, but this will depend on the progress achieved.

KAMIL MEETS WITH LONDON DELEGATION MEMBERS

NC161452Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 July--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met for about 3 hours with the members of the Egyptian delegation to the London tripartite conference. Kamil held the meeting to prepare for the London conference in light of President as-Sadat's specific instructions, which the foreign minister received yesterday.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil is scheduled to leave Cairo for London tomorrow morning at the head of the Egyptian delegation. This delegation consists of Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Haz; Ambassadors 'Abd ar-Ra'uf ar-Ridi, Nabil al-'Arabi and Ahmad Mahir; and Hamdi Nada, an official in the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department.

DELEGATION, U.S. AMBASSADOR LEAVE CAIRO FOR LONDON

NC161536Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt headed by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will leave Cairo for London tomorrow to attend the meetings of the foreign minister of Egypt, the U.S. secretary of state and the foreign minister of Israel. These meetings will begin after tomorrow in Britain.

U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts today left Cairo to join the U.S. delegation to the meetings of the foreign ministers. The U.S. delegation to these meetings will be headed by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

VENUE TO BE CHANGED FOR SECURITY REASONS

NC160652Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] London, 16 July--Early this morning it was announced that for security reasons the conference of the foreign ministers of Egypt, the United States and Israel will be held somewhere outside the British capital instead of at the Churchill Hotel in London.

This decision was made at the highest levels in Bonn, where President Jimmy Carter and British Prime Minister James Callaghan are attending the Western economic summit conference which begins today. A meeting will be held at the U.S. Embassy today to set the venue for the conference. The officials who are concerned with making the arrangements for the conference, under the supervision of the U.S. Embassy, will attend the meeting. Egyptian sources in London have said that the new venue is not expected to be disclosed for security reasons.

It has been reported that the delegations which will be accompanying the official delegations have begun to arrive at the Churchill Hotel. They will stay there until arrangements are made by the U.S. Embassy today.

OFFICIAL SOURCE ON ISRAELI ALLEGATIONS ON CONCESSIONS

NC162352Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2328 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] We have just received the following: After the cabinet meeting, Israeli radio broadcast various reports on the meeting of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat with Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman.

A responsible official source has stated that President Anwar as-Sadat said in Vienna and Salzburg more than once and in a definite manner that there will be no concessions as far as land or sovereignty are concerned and that Israel must declare in a specific manner its readiness to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza sector and to terminate Israeli military rule as provided for in the Egyptian plan, before the Arabs will sit down to study the security arrangements in the West Bank and Gaza. The Aswan formula, which stipulates that the Palestinian people will determine their fate after the transition period, must be applied.

SPEAKER MAR'I RETURNS FROM U.S., MAKES STATEMENT

NC151933Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i and the parliamentary delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo this evening at the end of a 1-month official visit to the United States. During the visit, Engineer Sayyid Mar'i met with U.S. President Jimmy Carter and other U.S. officials. They discussed the Middle East question, especially the Palestinian aspect of it.

Sayyid Mar'i has stated that the aim of the visit was fulfilled. He added that there is a deep understanding of the dimensions of the issue, especially as far as U.S. public opinion is concerned. The information media, he said, are playing an effective role in explaining the Egyptian peace initiative. Engineer Sayyid Mar'i also said that he discussed with the U.S. officials the means of supporting the Egyptian development plan, especially the part related to food security. In conclusion he praised the statement issued by the Socialist International and commended the increasing international interest in promoting an overall and just solution to the Middle East problem. He announced that there will be an exchange of parliamentary delegations between the Egyptian People's Assembly and the U.S. Congress for firsthand information regarding the outcome of the efforts to promote a just settlement.

The People's Assembly speaker said that the United States must make more efforts to put pressure on the other side to spare the world the dangers which could emerge in the event of failure to reach a peaceful settlement.

EBAN REPORTEDLY TO VISIT CAIRO IN LATE JULY

NC160858Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0805 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 July--Abba Eban, former Israeli foreign minister and an Israeli Labor Party leader, will visit Cairo at the end of July in response to an invitation he received during President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in November.

In today's edition, the Egyptian weekly newspaper AS-SIYASI says that during his visit to Cairo Eban will hold talks with Egyptian officials within the framework of the Egyptian peace initiative to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Eban lived in Cairo for a long time in the 1940's and his wife, who was born in Ismailia, lived there for 20 years and was a member of the delegation which accompanied Menahem Begin during his visit to the town last December.

PAPERS DISCUSS LONDON CONFERENCE, SARKIS SPEECH

NC160700Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo newspapers today highlight the news of the long meeting which President as-Sadat held yesterday with Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil to discuss Egypt's position at the London conference to be held on Tuesday. The foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will take part in this conference.

The newspapers say that during his meeting with Foreign Minister Kamil, President as-Sadat affirmed the need to adhere to the line that the land, sovereignty or rights of the Palestinian people cannot be infringed on and that all measures which would provide security and security guarantees to all parties should be discussed.

Keeping up their interest in the developments in Lebanon, the newspapers publish excerpts of the speech which President Sarkis addressed to the nation yesterday. President Sarkis announced that he will remain in his post. He also announced that it is necessary to prepare the Lebanese Army to play its national role and enter southern Lebanon. The Arab Deterrent Forces will temporarily replace the Lebanese Armed Forces until the Lebanese Army is ready to assume its tasks, President Sarkis said.

AL-AKHBAR INTERVIEWS ISRAELI OPPOSITION LEADER PERES

LD141537Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Jul 78 p 3 LD

[Interview granted by Israeli Labor Party Leader Shim'on Peres to chief editor Musa Sabri in Vienna "following the release of the Vienna declaration"]

[Text] I asked Shim'on Peres: What are you going to tell Mr Begin, your party and the Israeli people about your dialog with President as-Sadat?

[Answer] Well, I will inform both Mr Begin and my party about the talks I had with President as-Sadat, which were extremely frank and extremely useful talks. I hope that these talks will help people to make up their minds.

[Question] But will you tell Mr Begin everything, and will you submit to your party the same report you would submit to Mr Begin?

[Answer] I will submit the same report to every person. I don't have two reports. I believe I have told President as-Sadat about the principal points and information that I will convey to the party and to Mr Begin.

[Question] What is new and what is the difference between this dialog and the previous dialog you had with President as-Sadat last February?

[Answer] I believe that both sides--that is, Egypt and Israel--are about to reach agreement on a declaration of principles. The declaration of principles includes five provisions. The two governments agree on three of them and I believe that a solution can be reached for the remaining two. I also believe that additional efforts must be exerted by the Egyptian and Israeli governments to bridge the gap between them so as to carry on with President as-Sadat's initiative, which began with his visit to Jerusalem and which was an extremely important event in the history of the Middle East.

[Question] Thus, do you hope that an agreement can be reached on a declaration of principles within a short time?

[Answer] In fact, I believe that as a result of the meeting between Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, there will be a resumption from the point at which the first political meeting in Jerusalem was halted or cut off. I do not preclude the possibility of reaching an agreement within a relatively short time.

[Question] But do you know that the prevalent feeling in Egypt is that the meeting in London will fail?

[Answer] I disagree with this opinion, and I believe that the London meeting should provide a great opportunity for the resumption of negotiations and even attempt to reach an agreement. This is my greatest hope.

[Question] Is it true that following your meeting with President as-Sadat last February you said that you could reach an agreement with As-Sadat within 48 hours? I have heard this from Israeli journalists.

[Answer] Yes, this is true and it was published in the press. But what had actually happened on my return from Salzburg following my meeting with President as-Sadat was that I told our people that I see many difficulties in the negotiations. But I still believe that agreement can be reached between the two governments. While one can see the gaps in the views, one can also see the bridges. I have expressed a real and sincere hope of reaching such an agreement. I mean that the reference to hours was rather hasty.

[Question] Did you approve the document submitted by Dr Kreisky and Willy Brandt regarding the solution of the problem?

[Answer] I have read the draft and I believe it is a major event in the history of the Socialist International. We must not forget that 40 percent of the world governments today are socialist governments. There are several socialist governments in Europe. And even in those countries where the socialists do not form governments they form important parties in parliaments.

I believe that the document will be a sort of a draft resolution for the conference of the Socialist International parties which will meet shortly, a resolution based on the philosophy that President as-Sadat has initiated and which we support on our part. In other words, the greatest hope--in taking the first step and calming the Middle East situation--lies in the negotiations between Egypt and Israel. Meanwhile, this philosophy will not be restricted to this matter only, but rather it will be the beginning. Contrary to the previous thinking that Israel must turn toward the PLO and try to deal with it, something which, in my opinion, will not lead to a great progress in the negotiations, the philosophy today is: Let us support this initiative by President as-Sadat. From there on we will continue along the way until we solve all the problems, including the Palestinian problem. Thus, this is the best beginning and holds the greatest hopes for solving all the old problems. I believe that any responsible official in the Middle East must be trusted with solving all the problems [as published], but every realistic political personality must realize that it must begin from where beginning is possible.

[Question] Do you, therefore, consider this document as some kind of a declaration of principle, or some such?

[Answer] This is a decision by the Socialist International that includes many parties and governments. For this reason, it acquires great importance both morally and politically.

[Question] You do not represent a government; you are not negotiating. What are, therefore, the results or the practical impact of your dialog with President as-Sadat?

[Answer] You know that, during official negotiations held by governments, the governments also reflect the psychological state of the people. What happened in fact following President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem was that the Egyptian and Israeli peoples responded with support in an incredible manner. I believe that such a meeting with President as-Sadat will provide food for thought and hope for all peoples that contacts will continue. I believe that this meeting will, one way or another, help the London meeting itself, and will give a new, driving spirit for this initiative.

[Question] Do you approve of the "Aswan formula" [agreed upon by President Carter and As-Sadat].

[Answer] Essentially, yes. I also agree with the idea that the Palestinians have a right to participate in determining their future. I also believe that it is a new formula and that it should be acceptable.

[Question] What are the basic differences between you and Mr Begin over the peace process?

[Answer] Basically, they concern the future of the West Bank. While Begin adopts self-rule, we adopt a compromise regional solution; that is, the demarcation of permanent boundaries that would put lands back under the rule of the Arab governments, preferably under a Jordanian-Palestinian entity.

[Question] Are you prepared to recognize the PLO if it recognizes Israel?

[Answer] When the PLO recognizes Israel then it will no longer be the PLO; a new situation will emerge. Therefore, the problem is academic. But I fully recognize the existence and the desires of the Palestinians who reside on the West Bank and in Gaza sector and of the [need to] respect their heritage and aspirations in the best manner possible.

[Question] But it is being claimed that the majority [of Palestinians] are members of the PLO.

[Answer] This is a theoretical matter, because in practice the PLO is in fact a group or groups of leaders who control some small armed units and who do not really live in Israel or in Palestine. They all live in Lebanon. The people who live on the West Bank and in Gaza sector must know the situation better, and they do know the situation better. I believe that as a group--as a community--they are qualified to determine their future without armed pressure. As you know, when talking about the determination of a future of a people, it can be accomplished in but one way: either through election or through shooting. The thing that we cannot do is to combine both methods. You cannot have elections and exercise military or terrorist threat at the same time. I would like very much for our Palestinian neighbors to decide their own future in a free manner--free from threat and free from pressure.

[Question] Do you believe that Mr Begin is trying to destroy President as-Sadat's initiative? How do you explain his intransigent position? Do you recall that you said in Jerusalem that Begin has made concessions by recognizing Resolution 242?

[Answer] I believe that Mr Begin basically desires peace like anybody else. I do not doubt his motives. I believe that Mr Begin has moved away from his original stands on two points--the Sinai Peninsula and the West Bank. He, like many of his supporters, believes that what he has offered is good grounds for negotiations. He also believes that as long as everything is negotiable nothing should be considered as a final position. This is what I can say.

[Question] Yes, but you told us when we were in Jerusalem that Mr Begin has made concessions, that he now recognizes Resolution 242 and that previously he left the cabinet because he opposed this resolution. Obviously now he does not recognize Resolution 242.

[Answer] Well, the language that Begin's government used regarding Resolution 242 was a recognition of the fact that Resolution 242 concerns all the three countries--Egypt, Jordan and Syria. He also believes that his proposal regarding self-rule is the answer to the call of Resolution 242. I admit that there are different views in this regard, and I have a different view.

[Question] Is it true that public opinion in Israel still supports Mr Begin on the ground of its belief that he protects Israel?

[Answer] You know that it is quite obvious that public opinion cannot participate in every step and in all the details of negotiations. But if I should describe public opinion in Israel, I would say that the majority of the people support the peace initiative on the one hand, and the security measures necessary for the future on the other. This is because, at least at the beginning--and in the hope that this problem will be solved--we will have some sort of partial peace. Even if we should reach a solution for the West Bank acceptable to Egypt and Israel, the Syrians, as you know, are still in the rejection front. Israel might face problems in the future. We all might face such problems. For this reason I believe security considerations are of major importance. While at the time I can criticize the proposals submitted by the Egyptian Government, I have noticed that even this document pays attention to security needs. This is not strange to Egyptian thinking.

[Question] Don't you believe that Israel is now isolated even from its friends in the United States and Europe as a result of the intransigent stand which Mr Begin is adopting?

[Answer] I believe that Israel's attitude is just like the attitude of all of us: It is determined according to the outcome of negotiations. When you are in the middle of the river it is not surprising if you all become wet. But I prefer to wait until I see the offer or the course of events, because this is what determines the situation for all of us.

[Question] What are the solutions that in your opinion Egypt should submit, and what are the solutions that you can offer?

[Answer] I believe that what Egypt should offer is as follows: First and foremost, you must add to the Egyptian proposals what the situation will be like when we reach an agreement. The recent Egyptian document does not incorporate any pledge to establish normal relations, diplomatic relations and peaceful conditions. Despite the fact that I know that these things are still being offered, they are not mentioned in the proposals.

Second, I believe that we all clearly distinguish between the situation concerning the Sinai, where there have always been historical and internationally recognized borders, and the West Bank, which was established as a result of boundaries produced by various wars and where changes must be made in the future boundaries. I would like to speak to you frankly about the Israeli situation, and I am sure that most of our Egyptian friends understand it. In the future Israel cannot live on a piece of land that is a few kilometers wide. We have already explained that this has nothing to do with expansion but with the minimum requirements of existence.

The third point, I believe, is that Jerusalem must remain united and that there must be guaranteed means of access to the holy places for the Islamic world. I believe that there are many proposals in this regard.

As far as we are concerned, we must speak very frankly about the problem of the Palestinian people.

There is a Palestinian problem and it must be solved in all of its aspects so that there will no longer be terrible sufferings in any part or among any community in the Middle East.

I also believe that we must seriously and deeply respect the major role that Egypt is playing and will play in the destinies of the Middle East. I believe that the Middle East is coming to a turning point. Clouds are gathering today over the Middle East, and despite the distances to Aden, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, there is a common logic. It is the same method being applied in different places, and I believe that we all should be concerned with seeing that the area remains clear of Russian and communist dangers. We would also like to keep the Mediterranean clear because it is also our sea.

[Question] What did you mean by saying at the press conference that the Palestinians are qualified to control their destinies and express their desires. Is this different from self-determination?

[Answer] When you talk about self-determination, it can be expressed in different ways. Let us face the matter: When we look closely at the map we see that half of the Jordanian Kingdom today in fact consists of Palestinians.

On the other hand, all of the Palestinian people who live on the West Bank are sort of Jordanian citizens. There is nothing in the Bible that provides for two states instead of one. There is nothing wrong with having a Jordanian-Palestinian state. When, for example, I look at the map of Yugoslavia, there are Croatians, Serbs and Montenegrans living under the same roof. My own feeling is that the differences between the Jordanians and Palestinians are much less than those between the Croatians and Serbs. Regardless of everything, the Jordanians and Palestinians speak the same language, have the same heritage and the same religion and carry the same passports.

We must consider things academically and must take into account various considerations in building the future. I believe that the best promise for the future is a Jordanian-Palestinian entity, because it could stop the Russians from coming into the heart of Palestine and Israel. I also believe that it would halt extremist tendencies. I believe that in the more densely populated areas of the West Bank and the Gaza sector a vast potential would be added to the Jordanian Kingdom. I am talking here about the problem of refugees in the future.

Thus, there is not just one single consideration. I am talking about all of the aspects. When the time comes to solve the problem I can see different alternatives. I would once again recommend one of the alternatives which I believe is best for all of the people concerned and for the future of the Middle East.

[Question] Do you agree with President as-Sadat's view that the United States is a full partner in solving the problem between Egypt and Israel?

[Answer] Yes. I am convinced of the good intentions of the United States. I do not believe that the United States has designs, although I believe that it has its own special positions. I believe that the United States is seeking a middle stand between the Egyptian and Israeli stands, and that it is sincerely looking forward to reaching a compromise solution. I believe that Washington is basically concerned with peace and not with war.

[Question] Have you at any time felt any U.S. pressure on the Israeli Government or the Israeli parties in the past 6 months? I am asking this question because you stated in the United States that you support and back Begin against any U.S. pressure.

[Answer] I do not think that there has been any material U.S. pressure, but I believe that the United States is very concerned with maintaining the momentum of the peace process, and I hope that, as Vice President Mondale recently pledged during his visit to Jerusalem, the United States will not impose any solution. I was impressed by the attitude President as-Sadat adopted when he said that he is not looking forward to any imposed solution. The future needs agreement and not pressure.

OCTOBER EDITOR DISCUSSES ATTITUDES TOWARD PEACE

NC161207Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 16 July--In his article in the magazine OCTOBER today, chief editor Anis Mansur throws light on the stands of the Israeli leaders toward the efforts aimed at establishing peace in the Middle East. He singles out the stands of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, opposition Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and veteran Zionist leader Nahum Goldmann.

The trouble between Begin and other people, Anis Mansur says, is about what Begin means by the land of Israel. Only last week Begin announced that he would rather die or resign or see his government fall than give up one inch of the land of Israel, while Ben Gurion had said that he was ready to give up land in return for peace.

Mansur explains that the problem facing Begin and all Israel now is Israel's tarnished image in the whole world at a time when the Egyptians are advancing peace and are proposing practical steps to achieve it.

Mansur notes that Begin's policy has led to his isolation in Israel to the point that the ministers in his coalition government see this government as a launching pad for them toward the future. Every minister is now working for himself, in preparation for what will happen when Begin falls.

Mansur describes Begin as a commander standing in front of an army which has begun to desert him, because Begin's fanaticism is blind and because his desire for peace is in fact a desire for more wars.

In the course of his discussion of Begin's attitude, Mansur deals with that of his foreign minister, Moshe Dayan. He notes that Dayan is not a party man and has no popular base. Dayan is only a "loose end" and another image of Begin. The only difference between the two is that Dayan is not religious, whereas Begin is.

Concluding his review of Begin's stand, Mansur says that before his recent visit to Vienna, President Anwar as-Sadat met with a high-ranking Jewish personality. The opinion of this Jewish personality was that he is not worried about the situation in Israel, that the constant pressure on Begin will bring about his downfall and that Begin has stayed in power longer than he should have. As for Shim'on Peres, Mansur divulges an interview which he held with him in Vienna, during President as-Sadat's talks there with the leaders of the Socialist International.

In answer to a question on his talks with President as-Sadat, Peres said: I believe I have seen a new development. President as-Sadat explained everything to me with simplicity, seriousness, objectivity and a sincere desire for peace. I explained my own viewpoint. We agreed on certain things and disagreed on others. However, what is more important is that everything has become clear between us. I admit that President as-Sadat is an influential figure and a true leader. He deals with the problems clearly and seriously.

Shim'on Peres told Anis Mansur: I affirm that my meeting with President as-Sadat is considered a great political achievement. By this meeting and understanding, which has clarified the complicated aspects of truth, I have achieved the greatest step along the correct course of my political career. Peres added: It is unfair for anyone to view President as-Sadat as an Arab leader who wants peace for the Arabs only. He is an advocate of peace for the whole world. Therefore, his initiative deserves what life itself deserves in terms of concern and respect.

As for Nahum Goldmann, the 83-year old veteran Zionist leader who has been preparing the world to accept Palestine as a homeland for the Jews for 70 years, Anis Mansur says that Goldmann affirmed to President as-Sadat when they met that the mistake of the Jews was that they had elected to be hostile to the Arabs. It was a grave mistake because both the Jews and the Arabs are Semites and Semites do not forget.

Concluding his article, Anis Mansur says: The Arabs being Semites, do not forget that Israel has taken their land and expelled their people. Goldmann believes that peace is the best medicine for age-old agonies and political diseases. Nothing in history appears as a final or unique opportunity. Every opportunity is as good as another, and it is our duty to experience every opportunity and to live for it and live with it.

AL-AHRAM VIEWS OUTCOME OF VIENNA TALKS

LD1410547 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 July 78 pp 1, 6 LD

[By Chief Editor 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal]

[Text] In the course of 48 hours the efforts being exerted for the sake of peace in the Middle East have gone a long and significant way, for any talks on the Arab-Israeli conflict which are free of emotionalism, intransigence and a narrowminded view of the aspects of the problem are bound to achieve a result.

The talks have established several facts, most important of which are:

First, the peace initiative has strongly imposed itself on the Middle East and has become the principal factor in anything that happens in the political arena to any of the parties to the problem. Also, the initiative is no longer the property of Egypt alone, but rather is the starting point and the basis for everyone participating in the efforts being made to resolve the problem.

Second, there is a determined international desire to achieve peace despite all of the attempts to hamper it by the Israeli Government or by some of the Arab regimes which are inspired from abroad and which do not wish the initiative to succeed, whatever its objectives may be.

After this brief introduction I would like to enumerate the results of the talks in Vienna, where I was present for 2 days, during which there were constant meetings and exchanges of views whose primary objective was to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Obviously, the Vienna meetings came as a result of Austrian Chancellor Kreisky's efforts. He was the one who organized them and provided the opportunity for the meetings which took place both among the four top men--President as-Sadat, Kreisky, Brandt and Peres--and between As-Sadat and Shim'on Peres.

Here one might raise a question as to what Peres' role is in the situation since he does not represent any executive body in Israel and is only the opposition leader.

The natural approach to the answer begins with the role of the Socialist International in the problem.

We know that the Socialist International embodies all of the socialist parties in Europe and in the noncommunist countries. Israel has participated from the beginning in the Socialist International through the Israeli Labor Party, which governed in Israel for about 30 years. The presence of the Israeli Labor Party in this organization and the absence of the Arabs had turned the situation with regard to the Middle East problem in Israel's favor and had deepened the members' understanding of Israel's concepts in regard to reaching a solution to the conflict.

Then came the glorious October war and President as-Sadat's political initiative toward all of the countries influencing the struggle, regardless of their attitude toward it.

Bruno Kreisky--a Jew and one of the founders of the Socialist International--began to understand and accept the Arab viewpoint and, as a result, closed doors began to open and Egypt's stands began to be taken into consideration in the discussions of the members of the Socialist International. Then came the peace initiative, which has put an end to all sorts of reluctance in the attitudes of the members of the Socialist International.

There is not clearer evidence of what I am saying than the statement which Willy Brandt, in his capacity as chairman of the Socialist International, jointly signed and issued with Kreisky. The statement includes four points, which are summarized as follows:

--The establishment of peace must be achieved through sincere negotiations. President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative must continue until a peace treaty is concluded and signed.

--Peace must rest on natural and cordial relations.

--Secure borders must be established in the area in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338, including Israel's withdrawal from all sectors of the secure borders which will be agreed upon during negotiations, with the provision that there will be demilitarized zones and guarantees for the security of Israel.

--The Palestinian problem must be solved in all its aspects, including recognition of the rights of the Palestinians to participate in determining their future.

These four points agree with what the Egyptian president has proposed as a basis for negotiations with Israel.

Therefore, if we take into consideration the fact that the Israeli Labor Party under the leadership of Shim'on Peres is a member of the Socialist International and is thus committed to implementing any policy on which the members agree, then this means that the Israeli opposition party accepts what Egypt is demanding or, at least, agrees with it on the basic principles for resolving the conflict, foremost of which is recognition of the Palestinian rights.

Such a commitment by the Israeli Labor Party would lead to two very important results:

First, the party would have a specific stance since its stance has been vague and incomprehensible.

Second, the Israeli people would hear the views of the other side. What happens at present is that the Israeli Government hides facts from its own people, distorting the Arab stance and misrepresenting it in order to convince the Israelis of its own views and justify its rejection of the peace plan.

In addition to these two results, the stance of the Israeli Labor Party would strengthen the stand of Jewish leaders throughout the world in opposing the policy of the Israeli Government and in resisting the campaigns waged against them by all of the forces of Zionist pressure aimed at compelling them to continue to follow the line of the Israeli Government.

There is another significant point which must also be taken into consideration. This is the difference of views within the Israeli Cabinet. Obviously Menahem Begin has won Dayan over to his side.

It is also obvious that 'Ezer Weizman opposes the policy of both; he has said this frankly. There is also Yadin, the deputy prime minister and leader of the DMC Party, who, although he is in the cabinet, disagrees with the prime minister over the Egyptian initiative.

All of these elements reflect the correct situation and the importance of the Vienna talks.

An Austrian official close to Kreisky told me: The ring is tightening around Begin and all of the guns are aimed at him, even from inside Israel. The man feels this. He has therefore agreed to go to the London conference despite his realization that conditions at the conference will not be favorable for him. But he is going in order to calm the campaign against him, even if only for a short while.

The Austrian official added: You are not speaking from a position of strength, and no impartial person can disagree with what you are calling for. What is important is that you should be patient and keep calm. Your president's initiative will eventually be able to achieve what you want. Do not forget that the last poll held in Israel placed Weizman and Peres as the most popular leaders among the Israelies.

Going back to the Vienna talks, I would say that I believe that the following were the sure results of these talks:

First, the commitment of the Socialist International members--including the Israeli Labor Party--to a clear and specific policy.

Second, support for President Jimmy Carter in his efforts for the achievement of peace.

Third, the blocking of Israeli Prime Minister Begin's path of prevarication and procrastination.

Fourth, an answer to all of the agent trumpets that are still attacking the initiative, even though I believe that they are all just blowing worthless hot air.

ROSE AL-YUSUF COMMENTS ON LONDON CONFERENCE

NC1610592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 July--The magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF has said that the United States is completely sincere in its insistence on the necessity that the peace process continue and that momentum be given to President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative. The magazine says that, by the London meetings, the United States wants to affirm its insistence in this regard.

The magazine quotes informed U.S. sources in Washington as saying that the White House has prepared a U.S. plan, which will be submitted to the conference, and that the plan expresses all the views which President Carter and his aides had earlier given on the crisis.

The magazine says in tomorrow's edition that Israel is well aware of this fact and is trying its best to prevent matters from developing to allow the U.S. side to present the plan. If this should happen, Israel will be forced to specify its position on the plan and on the country--the last of Israel's strong allies--which prepared the plan.

The magazine says that the United States' aim for the London meetings is that a declaration of principles be issued by the Egyptian and the Israeli sides, based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the Aswan declaration, despite Israel's numerous requests to Washington that the subject of the declaration of principles be postponed until the end of the negotiations with Egypt.

ROSE AL-YUSUF affirms that the London meetings will be the last of the direct talks between Egypt and Israel outside the Geneva conference or the conference for which the UN secretary general, Dr Kurt Waldheim, has been calling.

The magazine believes that the Israeli delegation to the London conference--headed by Moshe Dayan--intends to submit a special proposal on the signing of a third disengagement agreement, under which the Israeli forces will withdraw from most of Sinai. However, according to this provisional agreement, Israel will keep the settlements which have been established in northern Sinai and Sharm ash-Shaykh.

The magazine says that Egypt's position in this regard is completely frank: The question is not the question of Sinai only. By this Israel aims at delaying and postponing the decision which it will take and must take, sooner or later.

AL-AHRAM EXPLAINS EGYPT'S CONCEPT OF PEACE

NC150734Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM explains Egypt's concept of peace within the framework of the current efforts exerted to establish it. The newspaper notes that during his 8-day stay in Austria President as-Sadat held important talks with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, former FRG Chancellor and Chairman of Socialist International Willy Brandt, Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres, UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. President as-Sadat returned home yesterday after one of the most important political tours he has made in his efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The newspaper notes that in a scientific and responsible analysis of the dimensions of the issue, President as-Sadat clearly told the world leaders and figures with whom he met: Yes to peace, yes to security guarantees to all the states in the area, yes to secure borders, yes to normal relations; but no to any infringement on the land or national sovereignty. The security measures are for the entire area, but they will never be at the expense of relinquishing land or sovereignty.

The newspaper explains that this is Egypt's concept of a comprehensive and just peace. This is how we understand Security Council Resolution 242, which must apply to all occupied Arab fronts and which calls for Israel's complete withdrawal. The Israeli prime minister, however, wants everything. He wants a permanent peace, security and neighborly relations. He also wants the land and he wants us to relinquish our sovereignty.

The newspaper concludes by saying: In view of the vast difference between Menahem Begin's concept of peace and Egypt's concept, which is based on UN resolutions and a world consensus which no one can ignore, will the Israeli prime minister come to terms with the situation before the peace efforts come to a dead end?

KING HUSAYN RETURNS HOME FROM UNITED KINGDOM

JN161735Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur returned home today after a 25-day visit to the United Kingdom. Their majesties were received by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, members of the Hashemite family, the prime minister and his wife, the chief of the Royal Court and his wife, the minister of court, the commander in chief of the armed forces and his wife, cabinet ministers, senior government and army officials, and the British ambassador in Amman.

Returning with their majesties were His Highness Prince 'Ali and Her Highness Princess Haya.

SYRIAN OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY DESIRE TO CONTINUE INTEGRATION

JN170649Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Syrian Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi has stressed the need to find suitable steps to consolidate the integration plan between fraternal Syria and Jordan. He also stressed the need to continue implementing Jordanian-Syrian projects that have already been agreed upon. Al-Halabi was speaking during his meeting with the members of the Jordanian side to the meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian ministerial committee on the implementation of joint projects and on adopting and financing development programs.

Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, has stressed Syria's desire to proceed with the integration march between the two fraternal countries in the two peoples' interests. This affirmation was made by the Syrian deputy prime minister during his meeting with the members of the Jordanian side to the meetings of the joint ministerial committee.

The Jordanian-Syrian ministerial on the implementation of joint projects and on adopting and financing development projects held a meeting in Damascus last evening.

In a statement to a JNA correspondent in Damascus, Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade, has stated that the meeting reviewed financing plans and investment programs of joint projects, the most important of which are the maritime navigation company, the industrial company and the Jordanian-Syrian industrial free zone.

The Jordanian side to the committee is composed of the ministers of finance, industry and trade, the central bank governor, the under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the chairman of the National Planning Council, the director of cooperation in the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the economic counsellor in the Jordanian Embassy in Damascus. The Syrian side is composed of the ministers of economy and foreign trade, industry, transport, planning, finance and the directors of the joint companies.

AR-RA'Y CALLS ON LEBANESE TO LEARN FROM PAST

JN160745Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Jul 78 pp 1, 11 JN

[Editorial: "Lebanon Revisited"]

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis has withdrawn his resignation and has chosen to continue to shoulder his heavy burden. He has called on all parties to consider the Syrian forces as legitimate Lebanese forces and "under no circumstances should anything happen that might disturb the clarity of the fraternal relations existing between the two peoples."

President Sarkis's withdrawal of his resignation does not mean that Lebanon's major problems have ended. In the south, the Phalangist-Israeli alliance is still in control. This alliance's call for "Palestinian disarmament" prompted President Sarkis to admit that "the gathering of arms owned by the Lebanese continues to remain one of the most difficult problems which cannot be settled in the near future."

The Lebanese president realizes the difficulties which face the legitimate authority. Thus, he clearly proclaimed that his decision not to resign does not mean that he will agree to put himself once again in an embarrassing position like the one which led him to insist on resigning.

The Lebanese president's message did not offer solutions to the difficult problems but left these solutions to future circumstances about which no one knows anything. However, the message recognized the legitimacy of the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon. This recognition might not please the parties allied with Israel but it will return everyone to the natural course.

Following President Sarkis's message, will the Lebanese return to their one Lebanon, or will the rancor and grudges in the souls of some renew the in-fighting, forcing President Sarkis to resign and leave Lebanon to the winds? We do not know. However, what we hope is that everyone will take this occasion to reconsider and learn a lesson from the bloody events which the fraternal country went through, for the Lebanon of the future.

AD-DUSTUR SAYS PLO REPRESENTATIVE MIGHT RETURN TO CAIRO

JN170708Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jul 78 p 15 JN

[Text] Cairo, AD-DUSTUR dispatch--A well-informed Palestinian source in Cairo has stated that it is possible that Jamal as-Surani, director of the PLO office in Cairo, will return to Cairo at the end of the Khartoum summit meeting. As-Surani delivered a moderate speech at the African foreign ministers meeting in which he said nothing about Egypt or President as-Sadat's initiative.

In a related development, AD-DUSTUR has learned that high-level contacts have taken place in Cairo between a senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry official and Palestinian leaders in Cairo.

Jamal as-Surani, director of the PLO office in Cairo, and Ribhi 'Awad, Fatah representative in Cairo, were deported in the wake of President as-Sadat's peace initiative when the resistance command attacked this initiative.

NATIONAL GROUPING MEETS; AL-AS'AD MAKES STATEMENT

NC141852Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Jul 78 NC

[Text] The speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Kamil al-As'ad, convened a meeting of the parliamentary national grouping today. The current situation was discussed. After the meeting, Speaker al-As'ad said that the various aspects of the current situation were studied and that it was decided to emphasize three points:

1. The grouping hopes and expects President Ilyas Sarkis to put an end to the question of his resignation and its complications. This should be done by announcing he is changing his mind about resigning and by coupling this announcement with a clear work plan based on the facts that will put the state on the right course to enable it to carry out its responsibilities and tasks, and, subsequently, to get the country out of its tragedy. We realize that the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese public in their various communities are yearning for such a clear plan and are prepared to support it with all their capabilities.

2. The question of collecting the weapons has been approved by the parliamentary delegations, and earlier by all the sides, in a parliamentary document that was issued on 25 April 1978 because the collection of weapons constitutes, if not a radical solution of the crisis, a means to a solution at least.

3. The entry of the army into the south, not only because this subject is a national and patriotic objective, but because we are confident that the entry of the army into the border areas, which will put an end to the Israeli moral and psyhcological occupation in the area, will inevitably reflect on the entire crisis and the existing charged atmosphere.

Speaker Al-As'ad said that the grouping also discussed the establishment of a comprehensive national grouping, the need for the establishment of which we had previously announced, in order to avoid a phase of constitutional vacuum and the threats of partition, settlement [of Palestinians in Lebanon] and evacuation.

Asked about what is being reiterated about amending the constitution to allow for the election of a president in the event President Sarkis insists on resigning and to avert a constitutional crisis, Speaker al-As'ad said: In my opinion, this is possible at the parliamentary level but it would require the approval of two-thirds of the chamber. Proceeding with such a bill would mean that President Sarkis has finally decided to resign. We continue to hope and demand that his excellency changes his mind about resigning.

Asked about the presence of Internal Security Forces in some areas and if this will contribute to solving the crisis, Speaker al-As'ad said: I would like to say that the security arrangements and details can lead to a relaxation in the security situation and traffic movement and to easing the tense atmosphere. However, the important thing is that these arrangements contribute to ending the crisis. This hinges on good will and principled stands more than on such arrangements. He concluded by saying: we say this not because it means that we call for optimism, but we consider that the national responsibility in these difficult circumstances must be commensurate with the consequences of the crisis if it continues.

VOICE OF LEBANON: U.S. PROMISES TO SUPPLY WEAPONS

NC141728Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 14 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] Through its ambassador, Richard Parker, the United States has given President Sarkis certain guarantees which have rarely been implemented before. These guarantees deal with the political and security situation simultaneously. A responsible source confirmed to the Voice of Lebanon corresondent at noon today that the U.S. security guarantees have been translated in the form of Washington's readiness to provide the Lebanese Army immediately with modern weapons, particularly offensive weapons. This will allow the Lebanese Army to carry put the tasks assigned to it or to face an emergency situation before this fall.

FRANCE, UNITED STATES EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR LEBANON

NC150640Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] France has affirmed its support for Lebanon and its readiness to give necessary aid within its capabilities. The French ambassador to Lebanon informed Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus of this yesterday.

The U.S. ambassador expressed a similar position to the Maronite patriarch when Ambassador Parker paid a 2-hour visit to Bkirki yesterday.

INFORMED SOURCES SAY SARKIS TO ADDRESS NATION 15 JULY

LD142057Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2020 GMT 14 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, 14 July--Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis will address the Lebanese people tomorrow evening [Saturday] to explain his final decision concerning the question of his resignation and the reasons that motivated him to contemplate resigning. Informed sources in the Lebanese capital said today that President Sarkis will explain the measures he plans to take to establish security and stop the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon should he decide not to resign.

BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS SARKIS WILL NOT RESIGN

NC151045Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Upon leaving the Presidential Palace at 1310 today, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad stated that President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis has informed him of his intention to withdraw his resignation. President Sarkis will announce this to the public in a message in which he will also explain the coming work plan and the basis for dealing with the crisis. Asked when the president will give his message, Speaker al-As'ad said: Soon. I think it should be tonight, but it may be tomorrow.

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES MESSAGE TO LEBANESE PEOPLE

NC151850Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Message addressed to the Lebanese people on 15 July by President Ilyas Sarkis--live or recorded]

[Text] Lebanese people: In these delicate times when the eyes of the world are focused on us and worried about our fate, I approach you to review with you, frankly and simply, the realities of the serious crisis from which Lebanon is suffering.

I will also discuss what we must do to get out of the crisis so that you may be aware of the facts and assume your historic responsibilities as citizens.

When I took over the reins of power at a fateful period, there was unanimous agreement to swiftly quell the fires raging in various parts of the country and rebuild the state, the structure of which had been shaken. At the constitutional oath-taking ceremony, I explained the basis of the policy I was to adopt to achieve this objective. This policy received unanimous support. I then worked out a plan of action. This plan was later adopted by the Riyadh and Cairo summits. The plan provided for a cease-fire and ending the in-fighting in Lebanon. It also provided for reinforcing the Arab security forces which were present on Lebanese territory at the time so that they would become a deterrent force that could impose adherence to the cease-fire, separate the warring forces, insure implementation of theCairo agreement, maintain internal security and supervise the withdrawal of the armed men and the collection of weapons.

The Arab Deterrent Forces continued to carry out their task in anticipation of the rebuilding of the army. It was natural for these forces to enjoy the same legitimate character, sanctity and immunity as those enjoyed by the regular Lebanese forces and to have the same rights and responsibilities. There can be no state where legitimacy lacks actual forces and there can be no state where actual forces lack legitimacy. The atmosphere of mutual confidence and understanding that prevailed in the relations between the Arab Deterrent Forces and the Lebanese played a big role in halting the battles that were taking place at the time.

However, the conflicts in the area and Arab differences had an impact on the Lebanese arena and prevented the continued implementation of the resolutions the Riyadh and Cairo conferences. This created an atmosphere of doubt fraught with all kinds of surprises and susceptible to explosion. Obstacles then began mounting daily in the face of the state's attempts to progress to the extent that all roads appeared to be blocked.

We tried again to open the way on the basis of a plan of action which was prepared at Shtawrah and which aimed at persuading the PLO to voluntarily implement the Cairo agreement. Here again, this effort did not realize our aims. However, I always had hope that the circumstances would change and we spared no effort to change conditions to facilitate the implementation of the Cairo agreement and overcome the various difficulties, especially since the infighting which had exhausted the country had stopped and the state was in a position to direct some of its efforts toward development, in addition to security affairs. But the atmosphere became clouded again. The Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon took place. Successive clashes followed, becoming bigger and more serious. When bloody events take place and the state becomes engaged in dealing with destruction instead of continuing the repairs and reconstruction it had started; when it becomes difficult to complete the establishment of institutions in various fields; when the task of organizing the army clashes daily with all kinds of obstacles; when the resolutions which the state adopts to serve the public interest are challenged in various ways; when the state receives only promises from the sides which can help; when provocations continue and reactions become more violent and when innocent victims fall while the state, deeply pained, is unable to put an end to this deterioration--when all this happens the mind and conscience of the ruler compel him to give up power. This is how the idea of resignation emerged after long contemplation and careful study of the events and the situation.

Today, after a chain of persistent ocntacts with requests for abandoning the resignation idea, and in view of highly respected international, Arab and Lebanese wishes, and after the positive willingness I sensed on all sides, I cannot but reconsider the question of resignation and acquiesce to these noble contacts and wishes. I will try once again to undertake matters and problems in a manner harmonious with the basic rules of exercising authority.

Lebanese people, today I address you with the same frankness I have always used with you, to explain the bases on which it will be possible to continue to rule and deal with the fateful situation in the country. My giving up the idea of resigning does not mean agreeing to a return to the situations which were the reasons behind my intention to resign. Governing is a responsibility and for this responsibility to be shouldered certain prerequisites must be fulfilled.

Violence will continue to threaten security and to threaten the state and legitimacy and the lives of innocent people as long as people continue to possess hundreds of thousands of arms and as long as there are tens of thousands of fighters, and as long as the international conflicts in the area and Arab differences and their reflection on the Lebanese arena prevent the collection of arms from the Palestinian organizations and the elimination of the armed occurrences. The question of collecting arms from the Lebanese will remain a thorny issue which cannot be solved immediately.

Rule will remain unstable as long as we cannot eliminate the illegitimate armed or unarmed manifestations which some parties and organizations practice. The presence of such manifestations and conditions conflicts with the role of the state and its legal institutions. The state must, therefore, use all its means to undertake these matters and speed up the completion of the preparation of the army and supply it with equipment and implement the compulsory conscription law in order that the army, even though in the stage of growth, may be able to carry out its required role.

In this framework and in response to the UN resolutions, which provide for putting an end to Israel's aggression, withdrawing of its forces and establishing Lebanese sovereignty over Lebanese soil and the subsequent dispatch of UN forces to southern Lebanon, it is natural that the army should enter the south to carry out its national role there. Anyhow, amity and confidence must characterize the atmosphere of the relations between the Lebanese and the Arab Deterrent Forces, particularly the Syrian forces, in a manner which will reflect the atmosphere of the existing fraternal relations between the Lebanese and Syrian peoples. We must consider these forces as legitimate Lebanese forces which are temporarily replacing our armed forces. They must be treated on this basis and they themselves must act on this basis.

Syria--acting under the directions of brother President Hafiz al-Asad--shares our heavy burden with us. No temporary conditions must disturb the clarity of these relations.

O Lebanese: The results of the potential and capacities which the state can mobilize will fall short of the aspired aim if all efforts are not concentrated on the establishment of a solid national unity. The measures and solutions will not bear full fruit if there is no national detente.

O Lebanese: All the foregoing represents the most important basic prerequisites which must be realized to exercise rule, especially under the delicate conditions through which Lebanon is passing. The Lebanese people must agree on this by actually strengthening their state in the difficult path which the state and they are following. Unless this is done, the danger of chaos will remain, threatening the interests of individuals and groups and their rights and dignity. The government would then clash with obstacles which would make the management of the rule difficult. Let us derive from the fatal dangers surrounding us absolute determination to save the unity of the homeland, its safety and permanence in response to the will of the Lebanese and in loyalty to the constitutional oath.

Cutting the state down to size would mean cutting Lebanon itself down to size. This shall not happen in Lebanon with God's will, the vigilance of the Lebanese, their collaboration and fraternity. Long live Lebanon!

POLITICAL REACTION TO SARKIS' CHANGE OF MIND

Al-Huss Comments

NC151948Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Commenting on President Ilyas Sarkis' abandonment of the idea of resignation, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss made the following statement this evening:

We have great hopes that the president's abandonment of the idea of resignation will mark the beginning of a new stage characterized by determination to build the prerequisites for an able and just state and to overcome all difficulties preventing the realization of this.

In welcoming the abandonment of the idea of resignation, we consider this initiative as a new starting point toward realizing the security, stability, detente and construction which we cherish under a state which is above all [its elements] and under a state in which no voice will be raised above its voice and whose authority is not disputed by any force. Therefore, the state must derive support from the citizens' vigilance and the unity of the national will in everything connected with the confrontation of the fateful issues and with building the state's institutions, foremost of which is the army. Until the army is rebuilt on sound and strong national bases, we will derive aid from the Arab Deterrent Forces as a legitimate force assuming the task of maintaining security and stability in this country.

Al-Jumayyil Comments

NC152040Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Commenting on the message by President Ilyas Sarkis, Pierre al-Jumayyil said this evening: In his message, President Ilyas Sarkis diagnosed the disease in all clarity and simplicity. All Lebanese know this disease. President Sarkis thought about abandoning the idea of resigning after having obtained all the guarantees from the Lebanese, Arabs and the foreigners. As Lebanese, Arabs and international forces, we must contribute to the practical interpretation of these guarantees.

Sham'un Comments

NC161228Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] Commenting on President Sarkis' message and his announcement that he had abandoned the idea of resignation former President Camille Shem'un said: I wanted to avoid commenting on the message and to leave it for the coming weeks and months to judge whether the message has come up to the level of the recent events or not, or whether it expresses our future aspirations. Sham'un added: When President Sarkis affirms that the Syrian forces are a legitimate Lebanese force, I would like to ask him to explain to us on which occasion these forces acted in the interest of legitimacy or at least safeguarded Lebanese legitimacy. Also I want to know when these forces complied with the orders of their commander, who is President Sarkis, and whether they have disobeyed him or not. [Nevertheless] the reason I want to congratulate President Sarkis now is because he has disappointed those who were waiting in anticipation [of his resignation].

Waldheim Extremely Satisfied

NC161119Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] The official spokesman of the United Nations has made the following statement: UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has expressed his extreme satisfaction with President Ilyas Sarkis' decision to remain in his important position. The secretary general said he hopes that the Lebanese Government, under the leadership of President Sarkis and in cooperation with all parties concerned, will restore normal conditions to Beirut and other areas in Lebanon. It is needless to say that the UNIFIL will continue to make every possible effort to support the Lebanese Government in its endeavor to regain effective authority in southern Lebanon, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425.

AL-HUSS RECEIVES 'ARAFAT , PALESTINIAN DELEGATION

NC161825Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] A meeting was held this evening between Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat was accompanied by Abu Jihad and by Abu al-Walid, who is chief of military operations, and Basil 'Aql, the representative at the United Nations. The almost 2-hour meeting was held at the home of Engineer Hani Salam. After the meeting, Basil 'Aql made a statement in which he said: Yasir 'Arafat conveyed the PLO's opinion of the part concerning the Palestinians in the message of his excellency the president of the republic. Yasir 'Arafat wanted to express directly and personally to the prime minister the opinion of the PLO based on his concern about Lebanon's present circumstances and on his belief that only dialog can clarify and rectify matters.

KUWAITI PAPER: SECRET AGREEMENT BETWEEN SARKIS, AL-ASAD

NC120850Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0816 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 16 July--The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH quotes reliable sources in Beirut as saying that a secret agreement was reached between Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Under this agreement Syria agrees that Syrian deterrent forces are not to be deployed in Maronite areas and that the presence of Lebanese military forces in those areas should be sufficient.

The paper adds that the agreement also stipulates that the deterrent forces, including the Syrian units, are under President Sarkis' personal control and that a joint Syrian-Lebanese committee will be formed which will coordinate daily between the Lebanese and Syrian political leaderships. AS-SIYASAH affirms that this agreement prompted Sarkis to withdraw his resignation.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY MEASURES TO BEGIN 17 JULY

NC170804Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 17 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] A meeting was held at the Presidential Palace yesterday. It was attended by representatives of the Lebanese Front and the Commander of the Arab Deterrent Forces. They discussed the security situation and how to deal with it objectively. Meetings are expected to be held today at the Interior Ministry and among the security commands for the same purpose.

Well-informed people say that the implementation of proposed measures will begin at noon today along most fronts where fighting has taken place in the past 2 weeks, in the eastern area and some suburbs of Beirut. More extensive and precise security measures will be implemented later on the basis of foreign and local guarantees--particularly the U.S. guarantees which were promised to President Sarkis to persuade him to stay in office.

MENA: CLASHES BETWEEN PHALANGISTS, NATIONAL LIBERALS

NC151050Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 15 July--An uneasy calm prevails in Furn ash-Shubbak and some quarters of eastern Beirut following the armed clash which took place last night between elements of the Phalangist Party and the National Liberal Party. The two parties have been in alliance during the 2-year civil war in Lebanon. However, elements of the two parties are still on alert following last night's clash, which occurred after Phalangist elements had detained two elements from the National Liberal Party. Both parties then set up barricades in the positions under their control.

Security sources have explained that this clash has not affected the security situation in general. However, they are apprehensive that this clash will lead to repercussions that may obstruct the security measures being taken to station Internal Security Forces in Al-Ashrafiyah to bring about calm. President Ilyas Sarkis wants calm to prevail as a condition for withdrawing his threat to resign.

Dany Sham'un, son of National Liberal Party leader, Camille Sham'un, has stated that shots were fired at him on the Nahr Beirut road last night, killing one of his aides. The provocations between the two parties has extended to the town of Juniyah, north of Beirut, where a Phalangist has been killed. An atmosphere of anxiety now prevails in that town.

Sources close to the two parties do not exclude the possibility that the parties will split. Former President Sulayman Franjiyah split away from the Lebanese Front following the Phalangist attack on the town of Ihdin last month, in which 33 people were killed. The renewal of differences within the Lebanese Front, which consists of a number of Maronite leaders, will make its future uncertain. If Camille Sham'un decides to withdraw from the front, its other members, who do not represent any significant military force, will eventually break away from the front.

TISHRIN DENIES RUMORS ABOUT PRESIDENT AL-ASAD'S HEALTH

JN152056Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Jul 78 JN

[Text] In today's editorial entitled "Al-Asad's Syria Is the Conscience and Sword of the Arabs," the newspaper TISHRIN alludes to imperialist circles' anxiety over Syria's firm and principled policy which is preventing them from carrying out their plots.

Speaking about the outside pressure being put on our country, the paper says: Syria rejects and challenges such pressure. It also assures the defeatists that like the present, the future depends on the free will of the Arab people and is guaranteed by safeguarding the interests of the people and the nation.

TISHRIN also refers to the economic provocations and the campaigns of rumors and slanders against Syria. It refers in particular to the rumors about the personal health of President Hafiz al-Asad and the doubts being cast about his ability to continue in power because of his health. The paper affirms that these rumors are part of the psychological warfare being waged against our steadfast country. Thank God, the president enjoys good health.

TISHRIN concludes by saying that the instigators of these rumors of the hostile forces who are overawed by the close relationship between the Syrian people and their leader, because of the values and principles he represents, think that they can shake our self-confidence and our enthusiasm for our progressive national principles. Syria's policy will be even tougher and more daring under Al-Asad. The solidarity of our people, their firm national unity and their great awareness of the objective of this tendentious psychological warfare have made Syria the conscience of our nation and the sword defending its dignity and progress.

KHADDAM RECEIVES SENIOR LEBANESE DEPUTY LAHHUD

JN161957Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Text] At noon today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Deputy Fu'ad Lahhud, chairman of the National Defense Committee in the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. Deputy Talal al-Mur'ibi also attended the meeting during which a discussion was held on the situation in fraternal Lebanon.

Following the meeting, Deputy Lahhud made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he praised Syria's stand under President Hafiz al-Asad and said: Syria has taken splendid and principled steps to help Lebanon and prevent its division. The overwhelming majority of the Lebanese citizens condemn this division, he added. He further said: I discussed with Khaddam the events that have taken place and are still going on in Lebanon. Our viewpoints were in agreement.

Lahhud then said: We also discussed the future steps which can be adopted in the interests of the two fraternal countries so as to enable Lebanon to get out of the crisis it is suffering.

TISHRIN: PHALANGISTS LOSING SUPPORT OF CHRISTIANS

JN170725Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Phalangist Massada," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The Phalangists and Sham'unists are mistaken if they think that they can stop the evolution of history. They will be even more mistaken if they think that the law of this evolution will not apply to them. They must know that they were just a temporary phenomenon in Lebanese political history, a phenomenon whose continuation was aided by the special character and sensitivity of the Lebanese situation and the confused political equations in the area.

This special character no longer exists, or it can no longer serve them. The current Arab situation has produced new equations, new forces and new concepts which cannot harmonize with or accept the Phalangist phenomenon in its present context, whether on the political, social or sectarian levels.

The Phalangists and Sham'unists began to lose everything--the Christians first and then the Maronites among the Christians. So they turned to Israel as an ally against Lebanon and its Christians and Maronites. For Israel, this was a golden opportunity to liquidate Lebanon, with its Christians and Maronites, on the pretext of wanting to protect the Lebanese Christians. This is what is happening. It is giving arms to the Phalangists so they can continue to fight. It is encouraging them to rebel against legality and the homeland.

The Phalangists and the Sham'unists have now reached the stage where they are completely isolated in Lebanon. Israel cannot protect them from the indignation of the Lebanese people, especially the Lebanese Christians whose history in the struggle for the Arab cause they have distorted. Nobody can save them from the people. They have to return to the people and adhere to their interests and will in enforcing security and establishing law and order throughout Lebanon.

The Phalangists must know that they have no future outside the Lebanese homeland. They must be part of this homeland, not its guardians. Cooperation with the Zionist enemy will not give them protection, because he who does not find protection in his own homeland and among his own people will not find it with his enemies. They will be very mistaken if they think for one moment that Israel can be a friend to any Arab. Israel expelled the Arabs and kills Arab children everywhere. Israel expelled Christian Arabs, and Maronites in particular, from occupied Palestine. The story of the two Christian Maronite villages of Iqrit and Kafr Bar'um is still vividly in mind. He who kills the Christians of Palestine definitely does not protect the Christians of Lebanon. Get rid of this Massada mentality and superiority complex. Know your real stature, because posing as giants will not make you giants.

PNC CHAIRMAN CALLS FOR MEETING IN DAMASCUS 18 JULY

JN150930Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY has learned that Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, has invited the PLO Central Council members to meet in Damascus next Tuesday evening. During the meeting, new developments in the Palestinian question, on all levels, will be examined.

ECONOMY MINISTER OPENS 25TH DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR

JN151918Y [Editorial Report JN] Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic at 1617 GMT on 15 July begins a live broadcast from the grounds of the Damascus International Fair to relay the official opening of the 25th Damascus International Fa... under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad. According to the announcer, the fair will be opened by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, economy and foreign trade minister, on behalf of the president.

The program officially begins at 1621 GMT with a speech by Nazim al-Hafiz, director of the fair. Al-Hafiz reviews the history of the Damascus Fair and its contribution to stimulating trade between Syria and the rest of the world. The director says that 51 co.ntries are represented in this year's fair.

At 1636 GMT Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, economy and foreign trade minister, delivers his opening speech in which he says that for the past 25 years Syria has fought for the economic and political independence of the developing countries and for a new international economic order. Syria has also supported the Arab Economic Unity Council and other Arab economic institutions as a means to achieve comprehensive Arab unity. Minister al-'Imadi praises President al-Asad's leadership and his achievements for Syria and the Arab cause.

Alluding to the situation in Lebanon and the current peace efforts in the area, the minister says: "The 25th Fair is being held under difficult Arab and international circumstances. Forces hostile to the Arab nation are trying to remove the justifications for national action to liberate the Arab territories, regain the usurped rights and achieve a just peace in Arabdom by busying revolutionary Syria and the Syrian Arab Army with sideshows in Lebanon.

"Therefore, we have to stress at this particular time that the president has often said that Syria wants the recovery of Lebanon, the unity of its communities and the elimination for good of all calls for partitition, division and subversion. We want Lebanon to be strong and united so its people can work to preserve the country's national unity, independence, economic prosperity and the general well-being of its society. The mission of Al-Asad's Syria and its Arab army in Lebanon is one of love, sacrifice and Arab fraternity. Syria's battle is the battle of the Arab nation, and Syria's enemy--world Zionism--is the enemy of the Arab nation. The liberation of Arab territories is the primary objective of all of our country's policies and the focus of all of its activities. Our country insists on steadfastness and is devoting all its resources to liberation. Syria calls on all its Arab brothers to adopt a firm attitude toward the Zionist plan, which is aimed against Arab lands and existence. If Syria's pan-Arab stand is the hope of the masses of the Arab nation, then the positive response to this pan-Arab stand is the measure of their commitment to the objective of liberation and the regaining of the usurped rights."

Minister al-'Imadi then goes into a lengthy review of Syria's economic achievements and production averages during the 1970-77 period, the first term of the presidency of Hafiz al-Asad. Al-'Imadi ends his speech at 1730 GMT.

The economy minister's speech is followed by a musical program. At 1800 GMT, the announcer says that Dr al-'Imadi has declared the fair open. The live broadcast ends at 1806 GMT.

ALGERIA

BOUTEFLIKA ON TALKS WITH GISCARD, MAURITANIAN COUP

LD141553Y Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Jul 78 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "We Agree on the Need To Restore Stability in the Area"]

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika was received by Giscard d'Estaing for 1 hour and 15 minutes on the afternoon of Wednesday, 12 July. As he left the Elysee, Mr Bouteflika, who had handed the president of the republic a message from President Boumediene, declared that "his mission comes within the framework of the necessary consultations which may take place between Algeria and France on a certain number of problems." "We belong to a world of interdependence," the Algerian minister continued. "I believe that we have policies which may sometimes be similar and at other times divergent. French-Algerian relations lacked the dimension of political cooperation which I came to the Elysee today to inaugurate."

The Algerian minister pointed out, however, that "although there is always an evolution after frank and cordial talks, this does not mean that we have been able to resolve all the problems between Algeria and France in such a short time .

"Each side knows the other's viewpoint a little better. The common dimension of both the French and Algerian policies is that we agree on the need to restore peace and stability throughout the area--something which, in Algeria's view, cannot be done without justice."

As far as French-Algerian relations are concerned, the minister added: "I could speak of a relaxation of tension, although I personally have never felt tense. In politics you must put your resentments in cold storage. You must always keep a cool head. Even though we do not have a similar approach to all the problems, we have decided by common consent to discuss maters rather more in the future."

The Situation in Mauritania

Commenting on the coup in Mauritania, the minister stressed that his country "has nothing to do with regimes. We recognize states, and the events in Mauritania are internal. Algeria is not in Mauritania. However we are keeping a close eye on the moves Nouakchott's new leaders make on the direction of restoring peace in the Maghreb." He then recalled that it was Mauritania that made the decision to break off diplomatic relations with Algeria. "It is now up to the new Mauritanian leaders to get in touch," he said.

Questioned about a possible new approach to the Western Sahara problem, Mr Bouteflika stated that "there may be many reasons for the changes which have occurred in Mauritania, but they are a direct consequence of the Madrid agreement and the situation prevailing in the area since 1975. Mauritania must exist as a sovereign, independent country. Algeria could not challenge the integrity of Mauritanian territory," he said.

SUDANESE MINISTER ARRIVES WITH NUMAYRI MESSAGE

LD151304Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 14 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Baha ad-Din Muhammad Idris, minister of presidential affairs of the Republic of Sudan, arrived in Algiers this morning carrying a message from President Ja'far Numayri to President Houari Boumediene.

USSR'S NOVIKOV REMARKS ON OLYMPIC GAMES

LD141340Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 14 Jul 78 LD

[Text] In a statement made today by Mr Novikov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the organizing committee of the Olympic Games of 1980, before journalists in Algiers, Mr Novikov said that the athletes of Africa have been performing for a relatively short time in the international arena, but in the world of sports one is not talking in chronological terms but in terms of records and victories. The athletes of the African Continent are taking an active part in all international competitions of importance. Their path has been marked by remarkable records, by glorious victories, by Olympic medals of the finest grade of precious metal. This has become possible thanks to the efforts made by the governments of the African countries for the promotion of sports and the training of a young generation which is strong physically and has a rich spiritual life.

He said in conclusion: We know that the results shown in Algiers will form the basis for the composition of the Olympic teams for 1980. It is therefore in Algiers that the path opens which will lead many African athletes to Moscow.

LIBYA

JALLUD LEAVES FOR TALKS WITH INDIA'S DESAI

LD170022Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 16 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud left for India this evening for an official visit of several days. He will have talks with Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai and other Indian officials on relations between the Jamahiriyah and India and how to consolidate them. He is accompanied by the secretaries of planning, electricity and housing.

He was seen off by Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir and by the Indian charge d'affaires in Tripoli.

ROMANIAN MINISTER LEAVES AFTER VISIT TO TRIPOLI

LD150915Y Tripoli JANA in English 0825 GMT 15 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, July 15, JANA--The Romanian minister of presidential affairs and one of the Romanian president's senior advisers left Tripoli on Wednesday after a visit to the Jamahiriyah lasting a few days during which he conducted negotiations concerning the consolidation of friendly relations between the Libyan Arab people and the Romanian people.

He was seen off at Tripoli's international airport by Mr Muhammad al-Manqush, the housing secretary, and the Romanian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

POLISARIO OFFICIALS ARRIVE IN TRIPOLI

LD170950Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 17 July--Brother Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz, secretary general of the POLISARIO, and brother Muhammad al-Amin, member of the Political Office of the POLISARIO, arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening.

MAURITANIA

NAMES OF MILITARY COMMITTEE, CABINET LISTED

LD131637 [Editorial Report LD] Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French on 11 July 1978 carries on page 4 an APS report, datelined Dakar, which lists the members of Mauritania's Military Committee of National Recovery as follows:

Chairman:	Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck
Members:	Lt Col Ahmed Ould Salem Ould Sidi
	Lt Col Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Ahmed Louly
	Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Hida Alef
	Lt Col Maouya Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya
	Lt Col Cheikh Ould Boide
	Lt Col Ahmed Ould Abdallah
	Maj Dia Amadou
	Maj Thiam El Hadj
	Maj Soumare Silman
	Maj Moulaye Ould Boukreiss
	Maj Jiddou Ould Saleck
	Maj Hann Amadou
	Capt Athie Amath
	Capt Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Ahmed Ould Deh
	Lt Ahmed Ould Aida
	Lt Moulay Hachem Ould Moulaye Ahmed
	Police Inspector Ly Mamadou

Paris LE MONDE in French on 13 July 1978 carries on page 4 a listing of Mauritania's new cabinet, as follows:

Foreign Affairs	Cheikh Baham Ould Mohamed Lagdhaf
Interior	Maj Jiddou Ould Saleck
Justice and Religious Affairs	Be Ould Ne
Finance and Commerce	Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara
Equipment	Lt Col Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi
Transport, Posts and Telecommunications, Tourism and Local Crafts	Col Viah Ould Mayouf
Planning and Mines	Mohamed El Moktar Ould Zamel
Industry and Fishing	Lt Col Ahmed Ould Bouceif
Rural Development	Dr Ba Oumar
National Education	Seck Mame Ndiack
Culture and Information	Mohamed Yehdi Ould Breidelleil
Health, Labor and Social Affairs	Dr Youssef Diagana
Youth and Sports	Maj Thiam El Hadj
Control and Investigations	Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Ahmed Louly
Permanent Secretary of the Committee Responsible for the Administration of the Ministry of Defense	Maouya Ould Sidi Mohamed Taya.

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED

PA142011Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1919 GMT 14 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 14 Jul (AFP)--Hamdi Ould Mouknass, the former minister of foreign affairs of Mauritania, was arrested today in this capital, reliable sources have reported.

Mouknass was arrested on his return from Khartoum where he was attending a conference of the Organization of African Unity when the overthrow of President Ould Daddah by the armed forces took place.

In addition to the former president, all the ministers of the overthrown regime were placed under house arrest.

MOROCCO

MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LAGDHAF ARRIVES

LD141304Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jul 78 LD

[Text] A short while ago Cheikh Ould Mohamed Lagdhaf, foreign minister of the new Mauritanian Government, arrived in Morocco. The Mauritanian minister is accompanied by (Habib Ould Sali), governor of Trarza; Sulayman ash-Shaykh (Tidnah), ambassador at the Mauritanian Foreign Ministry; Abu Bakr (al-Fa'), a (?former) minister; Shaykh (Ma' al-'Aynayin) former secretary general of the Mauritanian Workers Union; (Ahmad Wafi). deputy chairman of the Mauritanian iron and steel company; and (Musa Sita), a diplomat.

Cheikh Ould Mohamed Lagdhaf told journalists that he is conveying a message for his Majesty King Hassan II from Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of the Mauritanian Government. He explained that he has come to Morocco to assure his majesty the king that there is nothing to disturb the relations between Morocco and Mauritania. He pointed out that cooperation between the two countries will be consolidated.

The Mauritanian foreign minister noted that the Military Committee for National Recovery and the government are the two bodies which control the running of the country's affairs. He also declared that the change occurred in Mauritania because the people wanted it, in view of the existing economic, social and political conditions.

He concluded by saying that he will be making a detailed statement after the honor of being received by his majesty the king.

It is noteworthy that this is the first visit abroad by one of the leaders of the new regime in Mauritania.

Received by King Hassan

LD141956Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpts] King Hassan II this evening received in the throne hall of the royal palace in Rabat Cheikh Ould Mohamed Lagdhaf, the minister of foreign affairs in the new Mauritanian Government, who arrived in Rabat from Nouakchott this morning at the head of a Mauritanian Government delegation.

During the audience, Lagdhaf delivered to the king a personal letter from Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck.

Cheikh Ould Mohamed Lagdhaf made a statement to the press after the meeting. He said he was completely satisfied with his talks with the king. He also pointed out that he had come to affirm the desire of the new Mauritanian Government to continue to bolster the cooperation between the two countries.

The Mauritanian minister was asked if he will now go to Khartoum. He affirmed that he will arrive in the Sudanese capital the day after tomorrow at the head of a Mauritanian delegation.

Leaves After Visit

LD151404Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Cheikh Ould Mohamed Lagdhaf, Mauritanian foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him left Sale Airport this morning after a short visit to our country during which he delivered a message to his majesty the king from Lt Col Moustapha Ould Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of the Mauritanian Government.

At the airport the Mauritanian foreign minister made a statement regarding his talks with his majesty the king. He confirmed once again his country's desire to bolster the existing cooperation between Morocco and Mauritania. As regards the so-called Sahara problem, Cheikh Ould Mohamed Lagdhaf confirmed that a separate peace could not be established. At the end of his statement he expressed gratitude for the warm reception he and the delegation accompanying him received during their stay in the kingdom.

He was seen off at the airport by Abderrahmane Baddou, secretary of state for foreign affairs; Cheikh Saad Bouh Kane, Mauritanian ambassador in Morocco; the governor of Rabat and Sale, and a number of officials.

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE ENDS VISIT, LEAVES FOR SPAIN

LD142240Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister of Saudi Arabia, left Fez airport this evening for Spain at the end of a visit to Morocco that lasted over a week.

BADDOU RECEIVES SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

LD132305Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 13 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, Abderrahmane Baddou received Aleksey Shvedov, director of the Africa section in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, at the Foreign Ministry this morning. During this meeting both sides analyzed the present state of relations between the two countries and confirmed the scope for the development of these relations. This meeting was attended by Belkora, director of the Europe and America section in the Foreign Ministry; Dr al-'Alawi, head of the Economic Affairs section in the ministry; and the Soviet ambassador in Rabat.

PARTY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR BAGHDAD

LD141318Y Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 14 Jul 78 LD

[Text] A delegation of the Party of Progress and Socialism consisting of Abdellah Layachi and Larbi Bel Akkaf, members of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee and member of the Central Committee respectively, left Casablanca on Tuesday for Baghdad, the daily AL-BAYAN reported on Friday.

Invited by the Ba'th Party, the delegation went to Iraq to participate in the festivities marking the anniversary of July revolution.

PREMIER DEFENDS PHOSPHATES AGREEMENT WITH USSR

LD141037Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 9 Jul 78 p 10 LD

[Excerpts] Rabat, 8 July--Prime Minister Ahmed Osman has granted an interview to the German newspaper RHEINISCHER MERKUR in which he discussed the democratic experiment in Morocco, the independents' movement, Moroccan-German relations, Moroccan-Soviet relations...

The text of the interview is as follows:

Question: Do you think that the plan to restore industry to Moroccan control, which was announced in 1973 and mainly affected the third sector, curbed foreign investment? Was the transition to Moroccan control aimed at reducing the influx of private foreign capital, or, to be more specific, does Moroccan control of industry conflict with the desire to attract foreign investment?

Answer: As I have explained many times, the move to Moroccan control has never curbed foreign investment in our country. Indeed, since the laws on Moroccan control have been implemented, foreign investment has continued to flow into Morocco at a growing rate.

For example, foreign investment rose from 426 million dirhams in 1975 to 510 million dirhams in 1976, which respectively represented 16 percent and 14 percent of total planned investment in these 2 years.

In my opinion there is no contradiction between these measures and our desire to attract foreign investment. As you said in your question, the move to Moroccan control was aimed at the third sector whereas foreign investment, encouraged by new investment codes, is mainly concerned with the industrial, tourist, mining and maritime sectors.

Therefore, establishing Moroccan control did not involve nationalization--on the contrary, it left the way clear for foreign companies and investment.

Question: Morocco is regarded as a moderate country which looks to the West, but recently you have expressed regret that Africa has become the center of East-West conflict. You have opposed foreign ideological influences. However, in Moscow on 10 March 1978 you signed four major economic and technical agreements with the USSR which are so extensive that they have been described as the "agreement of the century" and make Morocco the USSR's leading economic partner in Africa.

What is Morocco hoping to achieve with its new "Ostpolitik"? Surely this 30-year agreement has given the USSR means of pressure on Morocco's foreign policy?

Answer: Moroccan-USSR economic cooperation has recently assumed new dimensions, particularly in the field of fishing and phosphates. Therefore a qualitative and quantitative increase in our volume of trade can be expected.

With regard to the long-term economic and technical cooperation agreement on phosphates in particular, I must point out that it provides for a geological, economic and technical study of the Meskala deposits. The USSR is giving Morocco credit for the exploitation of these deposits and for establishing the necessary infrastructures in this field, and this credit will be repaid in phosphates over 30 years. The agreement also stipulates that the USSR will buy nature phosphate and phosphate chemical products from Morocco and will supply various products in return.

The agreement in question should be placed in a broader context; it concerns the world phosphate market. In fact, our country possesses some 75 percent of the world's reserves. The USSR's phosphate reserves, on the other hand, are much smaller and only make up about 5 percent of total world reserves. On the other hand, Morocco's contribution to world phosphate production is less than 20 percent while the United States and the USSR respectively have a 40-percent and 20-percent share in production. Therefore, the USSR, which is the second-largest phosphate producer and consumer in the world, only has relatively small reserves. Experts expect the USSR's phosphate consumption to be higher than its production in the eighties. The USSR will then become a phosphate importer.

In our country, however, the level of production is low compared with our reserves. At the present rate it would take several centuries to exhaust our known reserves.

Our economic and technical cooperation agreement with the USSR is the result of two legitimate, complementary objectives.

The USSR wants to expand its agricultural production with a view to insuring self-sufficiency, and therefore needs a constant source of fertilizer, especially phosphate fertilizer. Now, the experts unanimously agree that world phosphate reserves are being rapidly exhausted, apart from the Moroccan reserves, as I have already mentioned.

This prospect is particulary disturbing since with the current state of technology, unlike energy for example, no possible substitute for phosphate has been found. In these circumstances, it is understandable that the USSR wanted to secure a supply of phosphate fertilizer.

Indeed, close study of the problem shows that Morocco is in a position to offer a sure supply of this product to the whole of humanity. Therefore, these are the reasons for our long-term agreement with the Soviet Union for the supply of some 10 million tons of phosphates.

We also intend to raise our phosphate production to a level which is more consistent with our reserves and thus increase our share of the world market. We also want to expand our phosphate fertilizer industry. A very ambitious plan has been drawn up for this expansion. Its medium-term objective is to export 30 percent of our phosphates in fertilizer form. The agreement with the USSR falls within the scope of this objective. The agreement will give our country a safe market and enable it to diversify its outlets.

Such a perfectly balanced agreement could not be used by one of the two partners to exert any pressure on the other. That is simply because both partners have a vital interest in it: Neither partner would gain anything by renouncing it but both would lose a great deal. This agreement is probably the perfect model of an economic and technical cooperation agreement between two countries on the basis of respect for sovereignty, mutual interests and equal rights, although the two states have different political regimes and one is a superpower while the other is a Third World country.

I must point out that this is the first time (apart from oil, of course) that such long-term economic agreements have been signed. It would certainly be beneficial to generalize this innovation.

SUDAN

KUWAITI PAPER REPORTS ATTEMPT AGAINST NUMAYRI

JN160820Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0750 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 16 July--Authoritative Sudanese authorities have recently disclosed that a new assassination attempt was carried out against Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. The authorities said they had obtained all the documents prepared by the dissolved communist commands in Sudan in cooperation with the ruling military regime in Ethiopia to implement the assassination in order to guarantee their presence [words indistinct] because President Numayri constitutes a major obstacle to the return of communist activities in Sudan.

Reporting this today, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' says that the Sudanese Government discovered an overturned Ethiopian military Landrover with five Ethiopians who were either dead or wounded. The preliminary investigation conducted with the wounded revealed that they were Ethiopian militarists.

The paper adds that Sudanese investigation authorities have managed to lay their hands on a long-range plan prepared by Ethiopia to get rid of President Numayri by detonating the place where he was supposed to deliver a speech during one of his tours of Sudanese areas.

The paper points out that Egyptian intelligence organs had previously discovered several assassination attempts against President Numayri. These organs, the paper adds, are now playing a significant role in Sudan [words indistinct] and to disclose all the schemes, documents and arms which were prepared to implement this attempt.

PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM TALKS WITH KING KHALID

JN131702Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 13 July--President Numayri returned here today from a short visit to Saudi Arabia during which he met with King Khalid.

The press adviser to President Numayri made a statement in which he said that the president's visit took place within the framework of continuous consultations between Sudan and Saudi Arabia to coordinate their stands on issues of mutual interest, especially those dealing with Arab solidarity and Arab-African solidarity.

The adviser said that during their 3-hour meeting, King Khalid and President Numayri held a fruitful dialog which covered all current issues on the Arab and African levels as well as international events. There was an identity of viewpoints on all matters discussed.

CABINET ADOPTS FOUR-POINT DECISION ON NEGOTIATIONS

NC161248Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1148 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] We now go to the prime minister's office and political correspondent Shalom Qital. Shalom, I understand that Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or is standing next to you.

[Qital] Yes, Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or is standing next to me and is holding the cabinet decision. I can see that it contains four clauses. Arye Na'or, please:

[Na'or] The cabinet today heard an account from Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman on his meetings in Salzburg with the Egyptian president and the Egyptian war minister. The defense minister also presented to the government proposals made to him by the Egyptian president. These proposals will be discussed and a decision on them will be made in the cabinet meeting next Sunday.

The cabinet today adopted the following decision:

--The Israeli Government will continue to hold negotiations with Egypt concerning the establishment of peace and the signing of a peace treaty.

--The exclusive authority to conduct negotiations with Egypt or with any country in a state of war with Israel is accorded to the government and to representatives given the authority to do so by the government.

--The level of representation of the negotiating parties will be prearranged. Heads of state or ministers authorized for this purpose will head their delegations.

--Israel stands by its proposal to renew the work of the Political and Military committees headed by the ministers of foreign affairs and defense of the two countries.

This has been the text of the cabinet decision.

[Unidentified reporter] I understand that the second clause refers, among other things, to meetings held previously and to those scheduled to be held between President as-Sadat and the representatives of the Labor Party. Is this so?

[Na'or] It is apparent that this speaks for itself. The exclusive authority to conduct negotiations with Egypt or any other country in a state of war with Israel is in the hands of the Israeli Government. The people have elected a government for this purpose.

[Qital] This refers to the level of negotiations, that is, who will meet whom. A prime minister with the president, defense minister with defense minister--these matters are not detailed. However, this is certainly the explanation to be elicited from the cabinet meeting.

You are probably hearing the noise in the background. These are the Gush Emunim demonstrators, who, throughout the proceedings--while the prime minister and the cabinet secretary were talking--sang songs and shouted slogans such as: do not make concessions in Samaria. This is a scene which we have been seeing the past few weeks. Now, back to the studio.

Begin Interviewed

NC161345Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1140 GMT 16 Jul 78 NC

[Text] We now switch over to the prime minister's office and to correspondent Shalom Qital:

Yes. The cabinet meeting has ended. Prime Minister Menahem Begin is now standing next to us. Mr Prime Minister, what can you tell us about the cabinet session today?

[Begin] In a few moments the cabinet secretary will read the statement. I can say that the defense minister gave an account of his talks with Egyptian President as-Sadat and with Egyptian War Minister General al-Jamasi; he also brought certain proposals with him. The cabinet has decided, however, to hold a comprehensive discussion on these proposals. A decision will be taken on them at the cabinet's next session, which will be held on Sunday. I emphasize next Sunday, because the day after tomorrow another cabinet session, which will be devoted to the problem of the state budget, will be held. In short, next week a cabinet decision concerning the decisions brought from Salzburg will be adopted. We have adopted a decision concerning the representation of the government. This decision is made up of certain clauses, and in a moment the cabinet secretary will read it to you, word for word. I do not even have the statement in my hand now.

[Qital] Mr Prime Minister, you say that the cabinet will adopt decisions next Sunday. Does this mean that Israel is not committing itself to new decisions prior to the London conference, which will be held the day after tomorrow?

[Begin] All the decisions for the London conference have already been made. I have already wished the foreign minister good luck. I will be acting for the foreign minister while he is away. On behalf of all the cabinet, I wished him success in everything he does. Anything connected to the London conference has already been decided on by the cabinet at its previous session and during this session as well. As for the proposals which were brought from the meeting between the Egyptian president and the defense minister, the decision on them will be taken next week.

[Qital] Unofficially senior officials have described Weizman's talks as "good" and said that there is guarded optimism in Jerusalem. Are you prepared to say this publicly?

[Begin] Everyone has his own assessment; however, after the adoption of the decision you will know exactly what happened.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, were the proposals the defense minister brought from the Egyptian president so different from the proposals which are well known to us as to warrant a special cabinet session and a decision on them?

[Begin] It makes no difference how you describe it. There are proposals and we have to make a decision on them. However, we were unable to adopt decisions today because of lack of time. We did not hold a comprehensive discussion on these proposals. All of these will take place next Sunday.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, how do you explain the strengthening ties between the Labor Party and the Egyptian president?

[Begin] The cabinet has made a decision on this subject, which will be read to you shortly by the cabinet secretary.

[Qital] We thank the prime minister. Now the prime minister will talk in English while we continue to wait for the cabinet secretary. Meanwhile we return to the studio.

Alinement Reacts to Decision

TA162106Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Now the reaction of the Labor Party [to the 16 July cabinet statement on talks with Egypt]. The reaction team of that party today called on the Likud leaders to cease the campaign of slander and casting of slurs on parties and people who disagree with the Likud's political path.

Reacting to the cabinet decision that only its authorized representatives are to negotiate with the leaders of Egypt and with the leaders of other Arab countries, MK Hayyim Bar-Lev said that this is a hysterical reaction springing from the fact that As-Sadat had met with the defense minister and with the leader of the opposition twice but refuses to meet with the prime minister. You cannot call the Peres-As-Sadat meeting holding negotiations, Bar-Lev said.

MK Abba Eban, on the other hand, supports the right of the cabinet to decide which of its members should represent it at official contacts and thinks that the prime minister wisely maintained his responsibility in this field.

Ministers React to Decision

TA162054Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jul 78 TA

[Excerpts] Political correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports that during the debate held in the cabinet today on the Weizman-As-Sadat talks in Salzburg, tension was again created between Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and a group of cabinet miniters who criticize the way the talks were held.

[Ram] Jealousy and selfishness was what Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman today called the criticism leveled at him by Ministers Ari'el Sharon and Yigal Horowitz over the way the talks with the president of Egypt were held in Salzburg. The defense minister's facial expression after the cabinet session proved more clearly than anything else that he was furious.

Moshe Dayan is leaving tomorrow for the foreign minister's conference in Leeds Castle and, in the defense minister's view, apparently, the cabinet should discuss the position to be taken by Israel at this conference in the wake of his talks with As-Sadat. However, as stated, the cabinet decided to debate the proposals put to the defense minister only at its session next Sunday and it spent more than an hour in making a decision which the cabinet secretary called a "decision of a basic constitutional character." At the end of the cabinet session we heard reactions by ministers to the contacts between the Labor Party and the Egyptian leadership and to the Weizman-As-Sadat talks in Salzburg. [begin videotape]

[Finance Minister Ehrlich] In a democratic country, only the government conducts negotiations and not parties.

[Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Moda'i] I think that these contacts are basically invalid, since it is known that As-Sadat is the head of a country which is an enemy of Israel and these contacts appear to me as giving flexibility to the president of a country which is today in a state of war and they are, even in a democracy such as ours, invalid, basically. I want to add that they do not contribute anything to the advancement of peace.

[Justice Minister Tamir] The continuation of the negotiations, which are important and vital for Israel, should be done by the elected cabinet or someone authorized by it.

[Ram] Do you think that the meeting between the defense minister and President as-Sadat brought the chances of dialog with Egypt any closer, closer than they were 2 or 3 weeks ago?

[Tamir] I think that it was good that the meeting was held and it produced certain results. They demand examination and study, but it is a step in the right direction--and by an authorized man and one who is suitable.

[Ram] Do you think that the chance for dialog today with Egypt is better than it was 2 or 3 weeks ago?

[Tamir] I think that any direct contact strengthens the chances and I think that this is the result.

[Ram] Do you think that, after the meeting, the matter commits the Cabinet of Israel, nevertheless, to certain changes in approach, if not in its programs?

[Minister of Construction and Housing Pat] I do not think it commits the Cabinet of Israel to any changes. [end videotape]

DAYAN LEAVES FOR LONDON, SPEAKS AT AIRPORT

TA170712Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is now leaving for London. Prior to his departure he said that the issues around which the deliberations with Egypt will be continued and where these deliberations will take place would be decided at the conference in Britain. He said that the question of the issues is a substantive question and will determine the framework and the timetable for the continuation of the deliberations. The question of the time and place is the technical question that has to be decided [as heard]. At any rate, if routes or a framework for the continuation of the negotiations are created, along which it will be possible to reach an understanding, a timetable for further meetings will be decided.

The foreign minister pointed out that he prefers an intensive timetable, without delays, but with a possibility for thought and consideration. He does not reject the possibility of attempts at mediation and the suggestion of compromise by the United States at the conference--with respect to procedural and, possibly, substantive issues.

Mr Dayan will arrive in London toward noon.

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON WEIZMAN-AS-SADAT DISCUSSIONS

Talks 'Optimistic'

TA151715Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Jul 78 TA

[Text] In his talk with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, President as-Sadat adopted positions more flexible, from Israel's point of view, than his public statements. Political correspondent Shalom Qital reports that, among other things, President as-Sadat promised that Egypt would agree to slight border adjustments in Judaea and Samaria.

Our correspondent reports that the defense minister gave the prime minister an optimistic report on his talks with President as-Sadat. At the same time, observers in Jerusalem are careful in their view of the positions expressed by As-Sadat, because in the past he has retracted remarks that he had made in private.

The defense minister will report to the cabinet tomorrow and after the report the cabinet will discuss its position at the London conference that is to open on Tuesday.

Our political correspondent says that Jerusalem assesses that in the wake of the talks conducted by Weizaman in Salzburg it will now be possible to concentrate on the negotiations themselves.

Details of Talks

TA161636Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Jul 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif and Ya'aqov Erez]

[Excerpt] Today Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will report to the cabinet about his talks with Egypt's President Anwar as-Sadat in Salzburg. He estimates that it is possible to reach a peace agreement with Egypt and it looks like this is what he has reported to Begin.

Weizman reported this estimation because in his opinion some "improvements" have been demonstrated in As-Sadat's present position with respect to the Sinai and Judaea and Samaria. As for the Sinai, it has been understood that Egypt would be prepared to reach an arrangement concerning the three airfields.

During the Salzburg talks there was no mention of the settlements in the Rafah approaches and observers think that it was no coincidence that Egypt did not go back to that subject. Even though they do not think that Egypt would be prepared to accept the Israeli settlements, the fact that they did not go back to that issue perhaps hints that they would be prepared to reach a compromise on this issue as well.

As for Judaea and Samaria, the Egyptian President repeatedly claimed that Israel must withdraw from most of the West Bank except for border changes within the framework of the security arrangements. However, he would be prepared to accept a military presence in various places in Judaea and Samaria even after the 5 years. Egypt's president is even willing to grant Israel a status in the administration of the West Bank which in his opinion should mainly be given to the Palestinians and Jordan.

In order to ease Israel's fear of returning the Palestinians en masse, As-Sadat is prepared to give Israel the right of veto in the joint committee whose job it will be to discuss the issue of immigration to the West Bank and emigration from it.

These, in general, are the issues discussed in the As-Sadat-Weizman talk in Salzburg, during which the Egyptian president repeated several times the need to act together to advance the process of negotiations "because time is not working in anyone's favor." At this stage, Egypt's president expects Israel to discuss the proposals and he hopes, so he said, that in the next talk with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, which will take place in Alexandria, (after the London meeting) he will be able to tell the Egyptians something authorized by the cabinet.

President as-Sadat does not place hopes in the London talks even though he thinks they would help maintain the negotiations' momentum.

More Details Revealed

TA170749Y Jerusalem POST in English 17 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman]

[Excerpt] 'Ezer Weizman yesterday presented the cabinet with a detailed outline of his discussions with Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat in Austria last week. The following points, according to a nongovernment source, were made by As-Sadat to Weizman as the basis upon which the current impasse can be broken.

--That the West Bank will be returned to Jordan after a five-year period.

--That during that interim five year period, Israel, Jordan and representatives of the West Bank will run a transitional committee with its own police force.

--That Israel will be able to retain its settlements on the West Bank (it is presumed that he means under Jordanian sovereignty).

--That Israel will be able to maintain a military presence on the West Bank as defined by Israel's security needs.

--That the agreement envisions parts of the area withdrawn from being demilitarized.

--That it is agreed in principle that minor border modifications to the pre-1967 line are acceptable.

--That the same arrangements as spelled out for the West Bank would apply to the Gaza Strip, with Egypt constituting the third party in the tripartite committee, and not Jordan. The POST understands that in addition to the above, which is similar in content to proposals outlined by the Egyptian president to Weizman in Egypt on March 30, As-Sadat intimated that the problem of the airfields in Sinai could be solved. At least one of these could be declared a civilian airbase.

As-Sadat, it is understood, was not specific, when speaking to Weizman about the settlements in the Rafah region. Weizman reportedly proposed that these have a "special status," constituting an annex to the Gaza Strip.

The POST also understands that the Egyptian president impressed upon Weizman that a "territorial gesture" would be appreciated by As-Sadat prior to any specific peace negotiations, "as a gesture of goodwill in response to the original overture made by coming to Jerusalem." As-Sadat spelled out to Weizman exactly what he thought this gesture should be.

As-Sadat 'To Be Flexible'

TA161801Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 16 Jul 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] One of the most important messages Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is bringing to today's cabinet session--following his meetings with As-Sadat and Al-Jamasi in Salzburg--is the evaluation that it is desirable to develop a line of practical rapprochement with Cairo, because through it As-Sadat is prepared to demonstrate greater flexibility than in the official negotiations.

As far as is known, during his latest talks with As-Sadat and Al-Jamasi, Weizman began a discussion of practical issues--not necessarily with respect to the Sinai, but also about the continuation of the negotiations on the West Bank and the Palestinians--and he might recommend that the cabinet change the planned format of the London meeting: to forsake the discussion of the two official plans by Egypt and Israel on the future of the West Bank, and focus instead on practical issues.

The HA'AREZ correspondent remarks that from initial comments that have been gathered concerning Weizman's report to the prime minister, the impression is the defense minister might face skepticism on the part of cabinet ministers regarding his proposals for the next contacts with Egypt.

The trend that emerges from Weizman's report (to give greater weight to secret negotiations with Egypt during which the Egyptians would be willing to show greater flexibility than they had been willing to show so far) might meet with distrust on the part of several ministers. In any event, this was one of the central comments made yesterday by the few people who were let in on the minister's report.

At the same time, the HA'AREZ correspondent remarks that the proposal to launch a practical dialog with the Egyptians was not new and has already been tried on the initiative of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who raised it in April in the United States. So far, the Egyptians have not responded to this line and one of the first missions of the Israeli delegation to the London meeting will be to investigate Cairo's intention of reaching practical conclusions with Israel even on the issues of the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

The impression cabinet members who have heard details about Weizman's Salzburg talks get is that As-Sadat has repeated his well-known basic positions: an objection to any concession in the Sinai, a demand for an almost total Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and striving toward reaching Israeli acceptance in a written document expressing Israel's willingness to recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Nevertheless, the impression from the Salzburg meeting is that in private talks As-Sadat is prepared to soften his positions.

DAYAN CLAIMS EGYPT DOES NOT ACCEPT VIENNA FORMULA

TA161721Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Jul 78 p 2 TA

[Excerpts] It looked as if the position according to which Israel should now strive toward reaching a joint declaration of principles with Egypt as a basis for the renewal of the political negotiations would be accepted during Friday's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee meeting.

At the beginning of the session, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan expressed reservations over the evaluation that Egypt was accepting the Vienna formula and mentioned Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamil's reaction as further proof of his claim that the Egyptians did not accept that formula. He denied rumors that it has been decided to renew the negotiations in alternating sessions in Al-'Arish and Beersheba.

The foreign minister said that the United States did not intend to raise the issue of the declaration of principles at the London meeting and that neither does Israel intend to initiate a discussion of that issue. At the same time, Dayan said, "we will not leave London" if someone should raise the issue of the principles.

DETAILS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING

TA161733Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 16 Jul 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Dan Margalit]

[Excerpt] On Friday, the Alinement MK's in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee leveled harsh criticism against the cabinet's policy and announced that they would have rejected a MAFDAL proposal to support Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who is leaving for the London talks with his Egyptian counterpart Kamil, "because there is no national consensus."

At the end of the committee's session, the Alinement wanted to put to vote a draft resolution ordering the cabinet to investigate in London the possibility of attaining a declaration of principles from Egypt as a basis for a peace agreement. However, after the MAFDAL faction wanted to consult, the committee chairman, MK Moshe Arens, did not find a way to put the motion to a vote.

It has been learned that on his departure for Vienna, MK Shim'on Peres did not tell Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the Alinement's political forum that he was carrying with him ideas for a joint statement. MK Abba Eban announced that he had participated in preparing a draft for such a proposal.

Eban's announcement aroused distress among the Alinement MK's in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee and they expressed it before yesterday's [as published] meeting. The opinion of MK's Yig'al Allon, Yizhaq Rabin and Yosi Sarid was that "Eban has gone too far" on this matter.

Parliamentary sources in the Likud revealed that the prime minister had talked with MK Peres several times prior to the latter's visit to Vienna, including once over the phone. The prime minister hinted that he was not enthusiastic about Peres' journey. Following that, MK Yig'al Allon called the prime minister and claimed that if MK Peres canceled his trip at that stage he would damage the country, the government and the Labor Party. Begin's reply was that "the matter is at your discretion."

It has further been learned by the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that during Anwar as-Sadat's talk with MK Peres, the Egyptian president said he would refuse to meet either of the three actual ministers--Begin, Dayan or 'Ezer Weizman. Therefore, the committee was surprised when several hours later an invitation for the defense minister arrived.

During Friday's session, MK Me'ir Talmi critized the fact that "the achievement made in the Vienna declaration" was ignored. The last 48 hours, he said, seem as though they were several weeks and months away, compared to the latest events which follow one another.

Dayan said that the Kriesky-Brandt declaration was in fact the Aswan declaration. The official Egyptian evaluation of what had taken place in Vienna was that Cairo did not agree with the content of the declaration, but only expressed its appreciation for it. The foreign minister said he had not heard of a proposal to meet with As-Sadat in Al-'Arish or Beersheba. He was waiting for developments after Weizman's talks. Dayan expressed amazement over the fact that the names of those who supported and of those who objected to Weizman's trip were leaked from a restricted meeting that discussed the trip. Dayan himself had supported it.

The chairman of the committee, Moshe Arens, emphasized the centralization of the direct negotiations in the present political situation. Minister Dayan said that he was surprised by the fact that MK Arens, who knows all the details, insisted on the matter of direct negotiations as though that issue depended on Israel. If one referred to MK Peres' trip, [one can see] that the Vienna declaration was in fact the U.S. approach toward the Middle East situation.

It was agreed to meet today for a meeting with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman for a briefing before Minister Dayan leaves for London tomorrow.

BEGIN DENIES CHARGE THAT HE IS OBSTACLE TO PEACE

TA161933Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jul 78 TA

[Text] I am not an obstacle to peace, but rather an obstacle to surrender, said Prime Minister Menahem Begin this evening at a meeting of the Herut movement center.

Mr Begin noted that from the Nile River to the Pacific Ocean a campaign is being waged against him to make him resign. It is his duty to reply that he was democratically elected to form this cabinet.

The prime minister pointed out that he does not remember one example in which heads of one country had attacked the prime minister of another country the way it is now being done in Egypt. Usually, he said, I reply to attacks, but this time, I will hold my peace so as not to harm the London talks. I prefer, he said, to overlook [attacks on] my honor. Correspondent Asher Schwartz says that all members of the Herut movement center rose and applauded Mr Begin.

The prime minister said that the document Egypt had released prior to the London parley should not be described as proposals for peace, but rather proposals for a retreat. We are asked to withdraw from Judaea and Samaria, from Jerusalem, from the Gaza Strip, and woe to our nation if it surrenders to such demands.

At the beginning of his speech the prime minister spoke of the Shcharanskiy and Ginsburg trials in which, according to him, all the criminality of the evil Soviet regime has been concentrated. He urged that the campaign for the release of the convicted be continued and that a special Knesset session be convened to award Shcharanskiy and Ginsburg the Zion Fighters Medal.

ISRAELI PRESS FEATURES VIEWS OF EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS

War Minister al-Jamasi

TA161535Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Jul 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Interview with Egyptian Minister of War 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi by Tamar Golan in Salzburg, Austria--date not given]

[Text] "This month, or, to be more precise--the next few weeks, up to the end of September --will be of decisive influence for the future of the area. And so, in my view, the main achievement of the talks held in Salzburg is that we were given the opportunity to reexamine all the stages to date since President as-Sadat's initiative of November 1977. Now we have a clearer picture of what we agree on and of what we do not agree on"--with these words Egypt's minister of war, Gen 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, summed up the talks he and President as-Sadat held with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman in Fuschl Palace near Salzburg at the end of last week.

The general said that the period just over was packed with misunderstandings and credibility crises. He spoke emphatically about the feelings of disappointment in Egypt following the reactions of several leaders in Israel and he even mentioned them by name. According to him, it was hard for him to understand the personality of a Middle-Eastern prime minister, like us." But most of his arrows were directed at Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

It also emerges from what he said that the personal factor plays no less important a role than the political one. Thus, the meeting with the chairman of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, a few days before in Vienna, also contributed to the improvement in the atmosphere. General al-Jamasi did not meet with him, but heard that he was "serious, thoughtful and shows willingness to come to a general understanding."

Nevertheless, he repeated again and again: "The situation is most delicate, we are standing on the threshold of a dangerous parting of the ways," and did not explain. According to him: [paragraph continues]

"The military problems can be solved and we can come to general conclusions on the issue of mutual security." It is possible to understand from what he said that the reference was mainly to two points: the matter of the interim period in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip and that of the Israeli military presence in that area. He was not prepared to go into details concerning the proposals for the solution, since in his view the problem today is on the political, not the military, plane.

The Egyptian minister of war admitted that maybe Egypt had not known just how complicated the internal political establishment in Israel was and that at least some of the difficulties could be explained by this fact. "Does the majority of the people in Israel support General Weizman's views?" he asked. When I pointed out that this was not how to present matters, since the reference is to a country in which a multiparty system is used, he half asked and half "threw in" the idea: "Could a referendum be held in Israel on the peace proposals? If such a referendum is held, what would be the answer of the nation?"

He had no doubts about the desire for peace of the people of Israel. How had he come to this conclusion? "That's a long story," the general replied, and after a thoughtful silence he tried to explain:

"In order to understand my personal process, it may be that it is necessary to draw a distinction between the older Egyptians, those who grew up before the establishment of the State of Israel, and the younger generation in Egypt. I belong to the "oldsters" since I was born in 1921.

"We knew the Jews, we lived with them and they lived in our midst. We had no hatred of the Jews. Among the younger generation, the problem is different. For 30 years we lived with the feeling that the Israelis hate us, they were the enemy, everything that happened in Israel was negative, dangerous. Today, the main problem is the younger generation which was educated in that spirit. Although among the young ones, too, a change is beginning now. I had no such problem.

"Afterward came the talks at kilometer 101. At the beginning, we were three Egyptians there faced with three Israelis. Afterward we were just six people. General Yariv used to bring me bits from the Israeli press which spoke about us and described us. We enjoyed hearing that they gave us compliments. We also brought the papers from Cairo. However, I lived all the time with the feeling that the reference here was to personal relations, not relations between peoples or countries. I did not feel that I could go home and say, I have got to know three Israelis and on the basis of my meetings with them I believe that the State of Israel wants peace.

"More time passed and we reached 19 November, the day of President as-Sadat's visit to Israel. I will not deny that for me that was an enormous surprise. When we were in the plane from Cairo to Tel Aviv--that had not been how I had imagined the meeting with the Israeli people. The visit to Israel affected me deeply, changed many of my views.

"The return home by plane from Tel Aviv to Cairo had no less an effect. That had not been how I had imagined the meeting with my own people. I was surprised by the genuine enthusiasm we encountered on our return. Now I had no doubt that peace was possible, because our peoples want it. That is why, perhaps, it is so difficult to overcome the current disappointment , the difficulties and the misunderstandings."

General al-Jamasi did not want to explain, from a practical aspect, what he meant by "difficulties." However, it was possible to understand from what he said that he regards as problematical the various frameworks (maybe it would be more precise to say competing) in which the sides are debating--on the one hand the Dayan-Vance-Kamil trio; on the other the Weizman-Al-Jamasi duo.

In the past, Dr Kissinger served as both U.S. secretary of state and the President's adviser on national security affairs. Acting in both capacities he could meet with the ministers of defense and foreign affairs of Israel and Egypt, together and separately. Today, Mr Cyrus Vance holds his contacts mainly through his two counterparts in Israel and Egypt. This is logical, but not always efficient.

Thus, various circles in Egypt--and this is by no means a secret--are not too happy at holding the negotiations through Moshe Dayan and prefer 'Ezer Weizman to him. Moreover, the Egyptians do not know for sure which of the two is supported by Menahem Begin.

In this way the impression has been created that the meeting in Salzburg was in the nature of preventive action in light of the upcoming meeting in London between the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt and the United States, whereas the meeting intended for Alexandria is meant to "neutralize" the proposal for a meeting in Al-'Arish. Although General al-Jamasi threatens with the sword of October, which is rapidly drawing near, there is no feeling that this threat is one of war.

Foreign Minister Kamil

TA161517Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Jul 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Ilan Kefir]

[Text] "We are going to the London meeting with a clear mind and an open heart; this is a chance for all of us to break the political ice and to continue with the joint efforts toward a final peace." Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil told me this in a special interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

I talked to Kamil in Vienna during President as-Sadat's visit to Austria.

The Egyptian minister said: "The London meeting will give us a new chance to examine the positions of the parties and see to what extent peace can be advanced."

Replying to my question regarding the Israeli Cabinet's decision to reject the latest Egyptian proposals, Kamil replied: "We were very disappointed with this position expressed by Jerusalem, even though I cannot say that we were surprised by it."

And what will Egypt's position be in the talks with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan?

Kamil: "Our position is known, we are prepared to talk about mutual security arrangements, on future Israeli-Egyptian relations, on good-neighbor relations and on creating mutual trust. Peace must be based on principles of justice and equality. Without these principles, peace cannot be reached."

Regarding the territories, he said: "Israel must withdraw completely from all territories, and I do not only mean the Egyptian territories, but all the captured Arab territories. There must also be an appropriate solution for the Palestinian problem."

Question: How does the Egyptian foreign minister visualize peace with Israel?

Kamil: "We are striving toward creating a normalization with Israel after long years of hostility and war. We are interested in doing everything in the peace efforts. Everything depends on you, Israelis; we must wait and see what your reaction is. The London meeting will provide a possibility to find out if indeed there has been a change in Israel's position. We expect Israel not to miss such a chance and to come up with new ideas."

Are the Egyptian peace proposals as they have been passed to Washington "a basic peace plan?" Kamil: "Yes, this is a basic peace plan. However, anything can happen during negotiations."

Kamil went on to say: "Diplomatic relations with Israel--this is the final goal, but the way to it is still very long."

What happens if there is no understanding between you and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan during the London meeting?

Kamil: "One must remember that apart from Israel and Egypt, the United States is also participating in the meeting. Both parties have faith in the United States. If we cannot reach a direct understanding with Israel, we will try to think of alternative ways to continue the peace efforts."

Replying to a question about whether he was expecting more flexibility from Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Kamil smiled and said: "Does anyone expect that?"

In a meeting with correspondents, Kamil said that there was no truth to the rumors that Egypt accepted with satisfaction the "peace document" formulated by Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and former FRG Chancellor Willy Brandt. In his opinion, the proposals in the document are closer to the Israeli position than to the Egyptian.

As-Sadat POST Interview

TA161351Y Jerusalem POST in English 16 Jul 78 pp 1, 3 TA

[Interview with Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat by David Landau in Austria on 14 July]

[Text] Fuschl, Austria--Egypt's President as-Sadat says he has "cleared his conscience" by meeting last week with Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Labour Party leader Shim'on Peres. But pressed to explain what this meant, he would only assert repeatedly: "It means lots. Lots."

As-Sadat gave an exclusive interview to the Jerusalem POST on Friday.

A senior aide to the president indicated to the POST that Weizman had carried back to Jerusalem detailed Egyptian proposals for a declaration of principles, and a list of solemn assurances which Egypt is ready to give Israel as part of a peace treaty. The aide, Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hassan at-Tuhami, said Egypt regarded today's cabinet discussion of Weizman's mission as critical for the future of the peace process.

As-Sadat spoke of his "special relationship" with Weizman, and said that he could speak "the same language" with both Weizman and Peres; but with Premier Menahem Begin he had no common language. He referred to Begin as "hard line," "suspicious," and "bitter." But he denied seeking to drive a wedge between the Israeli leadership, or attempting to split the nation.

"This is completely untrue," he said. "My way is always to work through love."

Deputy Premier at-Tuhami, in a separate interview, also attacked Begin for rigidty and was particularly scathing toward Moshe Dayan, terming the Israeli foreign minister "a propagandist." It was reportedly Dayan and At-Tuhami who met secretly in Morocco last October to lay the groundwork for the As-Sadat initiative of November 1977.

President as-Sadat declared categorically that the Aswan formula was "still available" as far as Egypt was concerned.

He clearly indicated, too, that Egypt would be prepared to agree to a strategic Israeli military presence remaining on the West Bank after a peace agreement.

On this week's conference of foreign ministers in London, As-Sadat said he did not expect U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to present American peace proposals there. The U.S. had "not informed" him of any such intentions.

He had agreed to the London meeting--despite the lack of any "new elements from Israel"--because U.S. President Jimmy Carter had asked him to, "and you know my estimation of President Carter."

"But let us hope," he added, without too much conviction, "that some way or other they can find in London a way to resume the talks."

Deputy Premier at-Tuhami said outright that he hoped no substantive negotiations would be conducted in London and that Israel would empower Weizman, not Dayan, to negotiate for it.

Weizman is to meet with As-Sadat and War Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi again soon in Alexandria.

But At-Tuhami conceded that a favourable decision by the Israel Cabinet today on the "ideas" conveyed by Weizman from As-Sadat could give positive impetus to the London meeting.

On the talks with Weizman and Peres, and the conscience-clearing they had effected, As-Sadat told the POST: "Believe me, I am quite satisfied with the talks I had with Weizman.... I think I have really cleared my conscience when I made these talks with Mr Peres, the head of the opposition, and with Mr Weizman, one of the pillars of the government."

Question: How do you mean, "cleared your conscience?"

As-Sadat: It will mean lots. (raising his voice) Lots. I can't say more than this. I have cleared my conscience.

Mellowing visibly each time he spoke of "my dear friend 'Ezer Wiseman" (sic) As-Sadat described the defense minister as "a man who is as sincere for peace as he is sincere for his country. And this is quite sufficient for me." Their "special relationship" was "exactly like the special relationship between you and the Americans.... Only between me and Weizman it is much better, because there are always misunderstandings between you and the Americans, especially in this arms deal and so on...."

The "special relationship" makes it "much easier to discuss everything" with Weizman, As-Sadat added.

Question: You know that some of his friends in Israel--and he has many friends--feel that every time you say that you do him damage....

As-Sadat: I am not at all a traditional politician.... I am a human being. Whenever I feel any feeling toward anyone, I always declare it--without reservation.

The deep communications gap dividing him from Begin, As-Sadat explained, lies in Begin's thinking that "the signature of a peace agreement is the utmost objective, the final act of the whole story. Where I think completely differently: I think the signature of the peace agreement is the start--the start to achieving the objective of the establishment of peace, and removing the wrecks in our way to coexistence."

Question: Do you feel that Weizman and Peres share your long-term view?

As-Sadat: Yes. Yes, I am happy to say this.

Another of the "main obstacles in Begin's thinking," said As-Sadat, is that "he is suspicious.... I felt some bitterness inside him, which shows from time to time.

"Well, I am not of this type at all. I always work through love. Some in Israel, who are carrying on a doubt campaign, say I'm trying to make a split" by meeting Peres. These people had said the same when he had met earlier in the year in Washington with leaders of American Jewry.

"But this is completely wrong. My way is through love, not through making splits. Ask Weizman... Weizman will tell you about this. We have dealt together and we've had lots of common ground."

Of Peres, As-Sadat said, recalling their talk in Salzburg in February, and their meeting in Vienna last week: "Really, I can say that the man is getting the correct interpretation of what I say."

The Kreisky-Brandt Socialist International document, issued in the wake of his meeting with Peres last week, was "for the most part" acceptable to President as-Sadat as the body of an Israel-Egyptian joint declaration of principles. He preferred not to specify which "details" of the document were not acceptable, but he noted significantly that "in the security field" the Kreisky-Brandt formulas were not objectionable.

Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt referred in their document to "Israeli security measures"--a clear hint of a continued IDF presence beyond the peace borders. As-Sadat indicated that Egypt would be prepared to contemplate such provisions.

In reply to a specific question on this point, he said: "Let me not discuss any details at this stage. I have said this (apparently to Peres--DL): I am ready to meet any Israeli need for security--either on the West Bank or in the Gaza Strip."

Another top Egyptian official accompanying As-Sadat on his vacation in Fuschl told the POST earlier that this readiness to negotiate an Israeli strategic presence beyond the borders was an Egyptian fall-back position, which could not be expressed at this stage for tactical reasons. But other senior members of As-Sadat's entourage firmly denied that Egypt would even consider an IDF presence across the lines beyond the 5-year interim period.

This disparity points, perhaps, to divergences of view among the ranking aides immediately below the president. The Foreign Ministry is generally considered tougher than either the President's Bureau or the Ministry of War.

Summing up "the whole thing, either with Peres or with Weizman," As-Sadat gave his position as: "Permanent peace--yes. Security measures, for Israel and for us, mutually--yes. Good neighbourliness, with the full meaning of the word--yes. Territory or sovereignty--no."

And he asked, passionately, "what is it that you need? A permanent peace--it is available. Security--normal relations, good neighbourliness, cooperation, co-existence--yes, yes, it is all available. Believe me, I'm asking, what do you want more? Land and part of our sovereignty? Is this the reply to my initiative? Then this is a hopeless case."

While praising Weizman repeatedly in the interview, As-Sadat noted sombrely that the defence minister, in his talks here on Thursday, had "represented his government... conveyed the government's point of view to which I don't agree at all. There is no common ground...."

Nevertheless As-Sadat stressed that he had "enjoyed" the 3 and 1/2 hour session with Weizman, "because I like the man."

And despite the lack of common ground, As-Sadat made it clear that he was not--yet--turning away from direct contact and putting his exclusive hope in American compromise proposals.

As-Sadat: If there is the conception of direct talks--it is my conception. I was the one who started direct talks with you. I mean... I challenged everything when I went to Jerusalem. But for anything to succeed there must be two parties to make it succeed. When Mr Begin adopts the hard line--and we have done all that is possible--then the alternative is: let's have a third party in which both of us have confidence. I am not asking the Americans to put the squeeze on you--or on me, because I shall refuse any squeeze.

As-Sadat cited here the first Israel-Egypt disengagement as an example of helpful U.S. involvement. "The title of the agreement," As-Sadat recalled, "was American proposals" to both of us. I can boast all over the world that I am the party who started this and who was very keen to keep it up on a direct level."

"Until this moment," he added, "all my Arab colleagues are asking me to end this direct contact with Israel and declare the failure of the initiative."

Question: Really? I was under the impression that you felt there was more support in the Arab world--at least in some Arab countries. (This was what President as-Sadat had told Peres, Kreisky and Brandt--DL.)

As-Sadat: Yes, I have more support. Every day. Yes. The majority (of the Arab states) is behind me now. But they are frustrated from the way Mr Begin... everything has an end....

Looking back over these past months, As-Sadat bemoaned "the time that has been wasted." The main causes for the lack of progress, he said, were Israel's self-rule proposal for the West Bank and its demand to retain its settlements in northern Sinai.

He waxed particularly indignant on this latter issue. When it had first been raised, "I thought it was a joke--or a bargaining position. Because I am after permenent peace--not after Sinai, or another disengagement agreement."

For this reason he had not discussed the settlements with Begin at Ismailia, but referred them to the two committees which met later in Cairo and Jerusalem. "But deep in my inside, if I had known this was an Israeli proposal and that Mr Begin would stick to it--believe me, we could have cut everything at Ismailia."

Asked what brought on the subsequent peremptory withdrawal of the Egyptian delegation from the Jerusalem committee, As-Sadat said: "The whole approach was wrong." Dayan, in his opening speech, had said "lots of very good things about peace, and so on." But Dayan had suggested, As-Sadat recalled, "compromise and meeting half of the way."

"Well," said As-Sadat, "if we agree, if we are going to meet half of the way--then this will mean at my expense, on my land. (After all) you have nothing to give...and I haven't asked you to give anything until this moment. I am only asking that you give me my land, and to return the West Bank and Gaza for the Palestinians.

"So the approach was wrong and there was no alternative but to break the whole thing up."

Another reason for the Jerusalem walkout had been Premier Begin's speech at the dinner in honour of Foreign Minister Kamil, which As-Sadat said he had found wholly hardline and a clear indication that Israel intended to hold on to the West Bank. In addition, As-Sadat said--though this had not been a cause of the breakdown--Begin had been "insulting" to Kamil. (The premier referred to the Egyptian diplomat as "a young man.")

The interview took place immediately prior to As-Sadat's departure from here, after a few days' rest at this Austrian beauty spot. We sat on the terrace of the Schloss Hotel, which commands a glorious view of the Fuschl See (lake). Also on the terrace were As-Sadat's wife and Gen al-Jamasi, talking quietly together.

It was the second formal interview the Egyptian leader has given to the Jerusalem POST--his only two full-scale official interviews to an Israeli newspaper. The first was in Aswan on January 12.

As-Sadat YEDI'OT AHARONOT Interview

TA151326Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Jul pp 1, 2 TA

[Exclusive interview with Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat by David Shaham at Fuschl Castle in Austria on 12 July]

[Excerpts] "A peace agreement is nothing but an opening to a new period of coexistence. We must find the way to achieve peace and this is harder than just a signature. It is not the agreement itself which, in my view, is the objective, but peace. Begin thinks that the signature is all. In my view, that is only the beginning of everything."

The president of Egypt, Anwar as-Sadat, said this to me in an exclusive interview given where he was staying in Austria--Fuschl Castle.

Question: When you make a balance for yourself and consider the debit and credit sides, how do you sum up for yourself your initiative to date?

Answer: If I speak frankly, then up to now I have achievements, too, but, at the same time, there are also bad points. But, all in all, the successes are more than the failures. It is impossible even to compare them. I will say this: After Begin adopted for himself the intransigent line and began his distortions, I was asked during those miserable moments whether I did not regret my initiative. I replied like this: As my recompense, I gained when I met with Israelis in Israel; when I saw them in the streets of Jerusalem--and particularly after my speech in the Knesset, on my way back to the hotel. Before that I feared that the enthusiasm of the people in the street, the emotion evident on their faces, even if all this did not disappear after they heard my speech, at least it would not be as it was on my way to the Knesset before the speech. This touched me very deeply, when I saw that the enthusiasm I met with in the street after the speech was even greater than that before the speech.

Question: What was the feeling in Egypt?

Answer: As I told you, I gained a reward for the initiative back in Jerusalem. But, on my return to Egypt, a great surprise was waiting for me. Something had happened to my people, on my return from Jerusalem. I went from the airfield to my home. The airfield is east of Cairo and my home is to its west. The sun had already set. The road was flooded with people. More than 5 million out of the 8 million inhabitants of Cairo had come to meet me. I said to the vice president, who was with me in the car: Something has happened to these people, which has not happened to them for the last 20 years. There had already been great moments in my life. I lived the victory moments of our revolution on 23 July, but I had never come across such an outburst of emotion--particularly among the women.

Question: And in other countries?

Answer: At the press conference held in Jerusalem with Mr Begin and myself there were 4,000 journalists--from one extreme of the west, the United States, to the other extreme of the east, Australia. To this day I get letters from journalists who were present at that conference--particularly from the United States, and, to my joy, also from the Jewish community from all over the world. Many letters from West Germany and also from England and France, letters of support for my initiative. One of them touched me to the bottom of my heart. Before I left Alexandria on my current trip, I received a cable from a Jewish lady in San Francisco, a cable signed with the sender's address, in which she warns me against a "putsch" people are trying to carry out against me in Cairo. She had read propaganda written by a foreign journalist about instability in Egypt and this led her to express her concern and she sent me the cable.

These are several of the successes, I would say the dividends, of my initiative. Of course I also count among them the package deal which was authorized by the U.S. Senate, which symbolizes the fact that the United States is trying to conduct a more balanced policy, a policy which is to the benefit of peace, and, believe me, also to the benefit of Israel.

Question: Is the same picture accepted in the Arab world?

Answer: There were many people in the Arab world who said and are still saying that I will fail in my initiative. Several of my colleagues are demanding that I already, now, declare that I have failed and that I sever the contact with Israel. I told them unhesitatingly: No. The initiative will not die, it will live, always, and particularly when it has such support all over the world.

In fact, the initiative created a dispute in the Arab world and led it to burning arguments. Many ask whether we are on the correct road. For this we must thank Begin, who put cards into the hands of the rejectionists. But I am sure that in the final analysis he has no other way than to admit his mistake and the initiative will not die.

The president of Egypt knows how to make a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere around him. Upon hearing my apologies for having missed the Vienna summit, he replied with a smile and showed he had no grudge or feelings of anger. Before the meeting with him began, slightly delayed, we sat with two of his aides, Sa'd Zaglul Nassarr--who is described as the president's personal aide, and Ms (Himat Mustafa) from the Ministry of Information. Both of them had been in Jerusalem and spoke at length of the pleasant memories they keep of the visit. We sat in one of the rooms in the castle, furnished with ancient and valuable furniture and with large Persian carpets and we waited for the invitation to enter the president's room.

Suddenly he came into the room where we were sitting and joined us. His appearance at close hand is much more impressive than one gets from the press photos or television. He appears much taller and stronger, dressed with care. His suit was tailored. His tie was perfectly tied. He smokes his pipe (black "captain" tobacco) and occasionally takes a sip from the cola offered us in wine glasses. He has a trait not marked in all high-ranking personalities: the ability to give the impression that he is listening not only with attention, but with interest. I was reminded that Levi Eshkol was also marked by this trait. It appears that leaders whose charisma was not born with them, but gained through great work and effort, are capable of listening better than the charismatic leaders whose name precedes them. As-Sadat, at any rate, shows concentrated attention on his face during a talk and its is impossible to find in it even the slightest sign of impatience or irritability.

I continued with my questions.

Question: What did you hope to achieve during your current talks in Vienna and are you encouraged by their results?

Answer: Before Shim'on Peres arrived Austrian Chancellor Kreisky, who is a very sincere man, and I, had an interesting discussion. The next day the four of us met: Brandt, Kreisky, Peres and I. We had a long discussion and afterward I met with Shim'on Peres for a private talk.

In fact, it is now clear that there are no great differences between us in the way of seeing things.

Is there any difference between us concerning Israel's acceptance in the area? That is a line we have made clear in the Arab world, and at least as far as Egypt is concerned there is no question. I have been in the Knesset and met with the elected representatives of the Israeli nation. I met with the people. I have proved that we accept Israel in the area.

Is there any difficulty regarding normalization of relations between us? Up to now the Arabs have rejected the idea of normalization. As far as we are concerned it is clear that we are prepared for normalization.

Are we divided concerning the need for security for Israel? In my debate in Israel and at the press conference at its end I said: A--I recognize that Israel has a need for security; and we also have a need for security. Let us sit down and discuss this like civilized people. B--The October War was the last war. I was asked here, at a press conference, if this is still my view and I replied: Yes, this is still my view.

Are we divided on the matter of permanent peace, neighborly relations and open borders? No. I am prepared for permanent peace, secure borders and normalization. I am prepared to supply Israel's security needs as I explained in the six clauses which include security needs.

Question: There is no dispute, so why is there no progress?

Answer: The difference between us and Israel is simple. Begin wants peace, security, neighborly relations, and also land, and also a part of our sovereignty. We will give peace, we will give security and neighborly relations, but we will not be prepared to concede part of our lands or our sovereignty.

I found no difficulty in discussing anything with Shim'on Peres. We discussed many aspects of the problem among ourselves, all the aspects of the problem, and we did not find many differences between us.

From my viewpoint, the visit to Austria was helpful and gave me a good opportunity to explain to my friends Kreisky and Brandt my positions and discuss with Shim'on Peres possibilities for the future. I hope that something may develop from here. Tomorrow, the last day of my visit, I hope there will be an important development.

Question: For the better?

Answer: I hope so. I always hope for the best. I am naturally optimistic.

Question: What is this development?

Answer: Tomorrow it will be known.

Question: These words will appear in the paper after tomorrow.

Answer: Here, you already know today. (President as-Sadat hinted here, of course, at his meeting with 'Ezer Weizman in Salzburg.)

Question: Before your visit to Israel you said that the problem was 70 percent psychological....

Answer: I said 75 percent.

Question: Is this still your evaluation?

Answer: For my part, and that of the Egyptian nation--the nation of 40 million, the greatest Arab nation, the intellectual basis of the Arab people, the people who have 7,000 years of history and civilization--a great deal has moved since the October War. We took our revenge, and this is our custom--40 to 50 percent [of the psychological barrier] had already dropped away at that point. After the visit to Jerusalem and you may quote me, we no longer have any complexes or inhibitions, feelings of bitterness and hatred. I recalled the 5 million who came to receive me, to bless me and to indetify themselves with the initiative. There were another 2 or 3 million of the people from the region's villages who wanted to come, but had been stopped for fear of overcrowding.

For our part there are no more psychological problems. But I am amazed at Mr Begin's psoition. He lives in the past. He is a man of the old generation. Inside himself there is some sort of bitterness and this is something very sad. I always try to live without bitterness. It has not been easy for me. For many years I had no normal family life. I was always in prisons or concentration camps. I was persecuted by the government. I had no time to devote to my family. But bitterness never entered into me. You can read this in my book, which perhaps you read; this is a tradition of the optimistic and believing village.

For our part there is no bitterness and so I was able not to postpone the invitation to Begin to come to Egypt. In Jerusalem I said (to Begin): Let us wait. Begin understood this. But the day after my return I sent him the invitation to Ismailia. We are not sunk in the past. But your man, and I am very said for him, has a bitter soul. A man with a bitter soul is not happy and cannot bring happiness to others.

Question: Does the latest program the Egyptian Government submitted have in it a sort of return to previous proposals, such as the draft proposal for a declaration of principles which was submitted at the foreign ministers' conference in Jerusalem?

Answer: The new program was rejected by the Cabinet of Israel, although the latter agreed to send Foreign Minister Dayan for a meeting with our foreign minister, Kamil. But all our previous declarations are still valid. Instead of presenting our proposals in general terms, we tried in our latest proposal to present matters in detail. We tried to return to the peace process, proposing a return to the situation prior to 1967--the West Bank will go to Husayn (and I know that you can talk with him) and the Gaza Strip to Egypt and then we will sit down to talk about the security needs during the interim period of 5 years, about all that is required in order to supply Israel's security needs. In our view, at the end of that period, and in accordance with the Aswan declaration, the Palestinians will determine their future. My proposal comes simply in order to make it easier for all the sides and to build a bridge over which we will arrive at a point where we can sit down and discuss what is required for peace after the signing. I will say further that I am different from Begin not only in the approach lacking bitterness, unlike his approach, but also on another very important matter. Begin thinks the signing of a peace agreement is the final goal. He wants to get what Israel has been trying to get through war or peace, but did not get, because it was not justified. He wants to impose his entire will on us. However, in my view, the agreement is nothing but an opening to a new period of coexistence. We must find the way to realize peace and this is harder than just a signature. It is not the agreement itself, in my view, which is the goal, but peace. This is similar to the approach of several of the new independent states, who thought that the main thing was to gain independence by signing a declaration of independence. I have experience. Our difficulties will only begin after we have signed the independence papers. Begin thinks that the signature is everything. In my view, it is just the beginning of everything. Because of this, I have put the emphasis on the building of a new view--an Israeli-Egyptian view--which will sit in Al-'Arish and Beersheba, and with whose help we will overcome all the difficulties in building peace, coexistence and the future.

We had already been sitting about an hour. One of the aides came in and laid a note before him. He looked at it and continued speaking. A few minutes later he said he had been informed that the mayor of Salzburg had already been waiting for a meeting for a long time. As-Sadat did not get up and did not announce the end of the interview--but waited for me to understand the matter on my own. I took the hint and began folding the pile of papers; the interview was over. We stood for another few minutes while he told how he had never issued an order forbidding Israelis to visit Cairo and expressed the hope that we meet there. (God willing) We ended with a handshake and went through an embarrassing confusion of luxurious rooms to the entrance gate. There limousines awaited us to take us through the security guards back to Salzburg. We can only regret not having stayed there long enough to get the pictures shot for us by the cameramen when we shook the president's hand and sat down with him in the armchairs for a talk. Never mind: You will have to believe us even without them.

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL CARRIES TEXT OF HAFIZOLLAH AMIN'S BBC INTERVIEW

LDT141602Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Jul 78 LD

["Text" of interview given by Hafizollah Amin, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Afghanistan, to BBC correspondent on 28 June in the Foreign Ministry building--read by announcer]

[Text] Question: Will the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] continue the policy of nonalinement?

Answer: As has been clearly mentioned in the statement of our great leader, Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA, under the title: The Basic Guidelines of the Revolutionary Tasks of the DRA, and in other statements and communiques of the DRA, the DRA is not only sincerely loyal to the policy of nonalinement but is determined to play an active role in its growth and development in a positive manner and with free judgement.

Question: How are your relations with the Soviet Union?

Answer: Afghanistan's relations with the Soviet Union began not with the victory of the Sowr revolution but with that of the Great October Socialist Revolution; and over a period of 60 years these neighborly relations have successfully passed the test of history. Ever since the beginning of friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, the USSR has rendered Afghanistan disinterested aid. The Government of the DRA was also recognized, before all others, by the Soviet Union, which has rendered it vast support in a spirit of profound humanitarianism.

Therefore, on the basis of the yardstick that our friendship is proportional to the material and moral support for the victorious Sowr revolution, DRA-Soviet friendly relations have been growing and developing through joint efforts in accordance with noninterference in each other's affairs, respect for national independence and taking into full consideration the principle of neighborliness and equality.

Question: How are your relations with neighboring countries?

Answer: Following the basic guidelines of the revolutionary tasks of the DRA, we seriously want to secure extremely friendly relations with all countries which are interested in such friendship. Friendship and neighborly relations with the USSR are so old and well-tested that they yield the definite fruit of disinterested and selfless cooperation, which is developing well in various economic and social fields to the advantage of the peoples of the two countries, coupled with a full and conscious safeguarding of equal rights, respect for the sentiment of national independence and noninterference in each other's affairs. No harm can conceivably befall these relations, as they are now the best model for two good and reliable neighbors in the world.

Our friendship with the vast country of India is daily growing vaster and deeper [words indistinct] that the two sides show tremendous interest in this aspiration, and desirable cooperation has also developed to the advantage of our peoples.

We have said quite frankly--and we mean it--that we are very interested in realizing and developing extremely sincere friendship with Iran and China in line with the historic relationships with the peoples of these countries.

With the government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, while we are seriously interested in the growth and extension of friendly relations between the two countries, we hope that the only outstanding political question between us will be solved by talks.

The DRA wants the growth of friendly relations among all the countries in the world, particularly among the peoples in the region, despite the existence of different economic and social regimes.

Question: Does Afghanistan need assistance from foreign countries?

Answer: It is patently obvious that no country in the developing world can overcome the vast burden of backwardness without extensive cooperation with other countries in the world. Realizing this, the DRA wishes to be able, by enjoying friendly and disinterested foreign aid, to take giant steps along the path of satisfying its needs.

Question: How do you work out your relations with the Western countries?

Answer: If by Western countries you mean the advanced capitalist countries [word indistinct] the DRA, in pursuance of the main guidelines of its revolutionary tasks, is seriously interested in following a policy of nonalinement and safeguarding and developing friendship with all countries, including those countries which you referred to as Western; and we expect these countries' assistance to Afghanistan not only to continue but also to develop greatly.

Question: What kind of help has so far been rendered to Afghanistan by foreign countries?

Answer: The friendly countries assisting Afghanistan have so far continued with their cooperation. The DRA is engaged in formulating the new 5-year plan and will seek help from all friendly countries capable of cooperation and assistance in implementing it.

Question: What will your attitude be to toward the Regional Cooperation for Development [RCD] and CENTO?

Answer: We wish to have friendly relations with all countries in the world without taking into consideration the manner of their regimes. However, we oppose the existence of all blocs which are directly or indirectly linked with military aims.

AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO IRAN INTERVIEWED

LD141054Y Tehran PARS in English 0950 GMT 14 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Tehran, PANA (PARS News Agency)--Kabul was not content with its past amicable relations with Iran, but would do its utmost to expand these ties, the new Afghan ambassador to the imperial court, Dr Najib, said during an exclusive interview with PANA on Thursday. He added that strengthened ties would contribute greatly to both regional and world peace, causes strongly favoured by both nations.

Najib said that when he met Iranian Foreign Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari on Wednesday to hand over copies of his credentials, they had "warm and friendly discussions in an atmosphere of goodwill and understanding."

Najib emphasised that Irano-Afghan relations were based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, and mutual respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and national independence of the two countries. Historical evidence showed that both nations had played valuable roles in fighting against colonialism and imperialism.

On the current situation in Afghanistan, the new ambassador said his country was passing through a sensitive stage in its history and, like every other country faced various problems. "It should be noted, however, that stability and security have been secured in Afghanistan and we fully intend to safeguard it. The government will be able to overcome any intrigue. The Afghan Government enjoys the full support of the vast majority of its people and with this support it can withstand any opposition from inside the country" he added.

On economic issues, Najib said that the previous government and ruling class had stolen the major part of the nation's wealth and had left the country very poor. "With the help of our people and all friendly (?nations) we are hoping to surmount this problem as we expect that any assistance from our friends will be without strings."

Najib concluded by expressing the gratitude of his government for Iran's offer of continued economic assistance to Afghanistan. The offer was made by Foreign Minister Khal'atbari in a recent interview.

BANGLADESH

SHAMSUL HAQ RETURNS TO DACCA FROM MALAYSIA, PHILIPPINES

BK1613527 Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The foreign minister, Prof Shamsul Haq, returned to Dacca this afternoon after a visit to Malaysia and the Philippines. Talking to newsmen, he said Bangladesh and the Philippines are taking steps to open each others' missions in Manila and Dacca.

As reported earlier, the two countries agreed to exchange diplomatic missions as a first step toward establishing normal and formal relations between them.

Giving his impression about his visit to Malaysia and the Philippines, Professor Haq said both countries are keen to strengthen their ties of friendship and cooperation with Bangladesh.

TRADE DELEGATION LEAVES FOR HANOI 16 JULY

BK1616447 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 78 BK

[Text] A two member Bangladesh trade delegation, led by the commerce secretary, Mr Mohammed Saifur Rahman, left Dacca today for Hanoi to sign the first ever bilateral general trade agreement with Vietnam.

During its 4-day stay, the delegation will also sign an annual commodity exchange protocol. Negotiations relating to the agreement were held in Dacca during September last during the visit of the Vietnamese vice foreign trade minister, Mr Nguyen Chanh, to Bangladesh.

INDIA

SPOKESMAN DENIES SOVIET OFFER OF ENRICHED URANIUM

OW1420407 Hong Kong AFP in English 2030 GMT 14 Jul 78 OW

[Text] New Delhi, July 14 (AFP)--A government spokesman today denied that the Soviet Union had offered to enrich natural uranium for Indian powerplants.

He was commenting on press reports that such an offer was made recently at a time of uncertainties about the continued U.S. supply of enriched uranium for the American-built Tarapur Atomic Power Station near Bombay.

The English language daily TIMES OF INDIA, which carried the report, said "encouraging" inquiries were also received from France. The question might be raised in the talks between French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Olivier Stirn and Indian leaders here next week, the paper added.

It noted that although the United States had now decided to ship 7.6 tons of enriched uranium, further supplies were doubtful and the Soviet offer could still be relevant.

The government spokesman stated that it was unlikely that the USSR or any other nuclear power would make such an offer without demanding full-scale safeguards.

CONGRESS-I TO LEAVE MAHARASHTRA CONGRESS COALITION

BK1610507 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The Working Committee of the Congress Party, which is heading a coalition government with the Congress-I in the western state of Maharashtra, has begun a meeting in New Delhi.

Political circles are attaching crucial importance to the meeting as it is to decide on the continuance of the coalition ministry in Maharashtra. The political crisis in the new state began with the resignation of four Congress ministers led by the industries minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, from the cabinet and the withdrawal of support to the cabinet by his followers in the legislature.

In the meantime, the other coalition partner--the Congress-I--led by the former prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, decided to withdraw from the coalition and offered support to the ministry headed by Mr Vasantrao Patil from outside. But the group of Congress legislators, led by Mr Sharad Pawar, opposed this move and is insisting on doing away with the coalition, saying that it is dominated by the Congress-I.

The meeting is presided over by the acting Congress president, Mr Chavan. Besides the chief minister, Mr Patil, Mr Sharad Pawar are also attending [as heard].

Coalition Government Collapses

BK1616127 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 78 BK

[Excerpt] The Congress Working Committee which met in New Delhi today decided to terminate the coalition government in Maharashtra with immediate effect. After three rounds of discussions lasting for about 6 hours, the Working Committee also decided against entering into a coalition with the Janata Party or accepting a support from the outside in the formation of the government in the state. The party will sit in opposition.

Briefing newsmen, the AICC [All-India Congress Committee] general secretary, Mr K.C. Pant, said these decisions were conveyed to the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr Vasantrao Patil; Mr Sharad Pawar, who has resigned as industries minister, and the president of the Maharashtra Pradesh [state] Congress Party, Mr (Tidke). Mr Pant said they have accepted the decisions of the committee.

The committee decided not to pursue further unity talks with the Congress-I. It said any uncertainty in this regard should now cease. Giving reasons for this decision, the committee pointed out that no progress was reported on unity talks even after the expiry of the 3-week deadline set by the Working Committee at its last meeting.

The Working Committee has called upon the congressmen of Maharashtra to implement its decisions unhesitatingly and to strengthen unity of the party at all levels. The committee also urged all congressmen to build up the party with redoubled vigor and to launch a vigorous membership drive.

Coalition Ministry Resigns

BK171000Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The 4-month old Congress and Congress-I coalition in Maharashtra ended today with the chief minister, Mr Vasantrao Patil, submitting the resignation of his ministry to the state governor, Mr Sadiq Ali. The governor has accepted the resignation and has asked Mr Patil to continue till alternative arrangements are made. Mr Sadiq Ali told newsmen that his first task will be to see if an alternative government can be formed.

The leader of the opposition in the state assembly, Mr Uttamrao Patil, and the president of the state Janata Party, Mr S.M. Joshi, met the governor this morning and claimed a majority in the Vidhan Sabha [state assembly]. Mr Uttamrao Patil told newsmen that he will be meeting the governor again this evening. He was confident that his party will be able to form a government in a day or two. Mr Joshi said Mr Sharad Pawar has been asked to give them his final reply by 1730 today on the question of forming the new government. Mr Patil said they will attend a party meeting to work out the details.

DELHI REPORTS 100 INJURED IN KASHMIR POLITICAL CLASHES

BK151035Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Jul 78 BK

[Text] In Srinagar, about 100 persons were reported to have been injured yesterday in clashes between the supporters of the National Conference and the Awami Action Committee. The police burst teargas shells at two places to disperse clashing groups who indulged in stone throwing. The state inspector general of police is among those who received injury.

The incident occurred after Friday's prayers of the Jama Misjid. The situation is now reported to be calm. The chairman of the Awami Action Committee, (Moulvi Mohammad Farooq), has urged the state government to order an impartial inquiry into the incident.

NEPAL

ROYAL FAMILY, FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVE FOR DPRK 16 JULY

BK1616422 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 16 Jul 78 BK

[Excerpts] Their Royal Highnesses Prince Gyanendra, Princess Komal, Prince Birendra and Princess Prekshya left Katmandu today for Bangkok en route to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on a 5-day official visit at the invitation of the DPRK government.

Their royal highnesses are accompanied by the foreign minister, Mr Krishna Raj Aryal. Officials of the Royal Palace and the Foreign Ministry are also included in the entourage.

Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista will look after the affairs of the Foreign Ministry until the return of the foreign minister. This was stated in a notice issued by the principal press secretariat of his majesty the king.

PAKISTAN

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER OKCUN MEETS WITH AGHA SHAHI

BK1417182 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The Turkish foreign minister, Mr Gunduz Okcun, held talks in Islamabad today with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi. They exchanged views on bilateral relations as well as on the regional and international situation during the talks lasting about 3 hours. The talks were held in an extremely cordial atmosphere and underlined the identity of views on matters of mutual interest and common concern.

Later, the Turkish foreign minister attended a luncheon given in his honor by Mr Agha Shahi. Mr Okcun called on President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry this afternoon. The wife of the Turkish foreign minister, Mrs (Maseem) Okcun, visited Taxilla, the National Institute of Traditional and Health Sciences and the National Gallery of Arts in Islamabad this morning.

Concludes Visit

BK1608042 Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 16 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Mr Gunduz Okcun left yesterday for Ankara after a 2-day visit to Pakistan. He was seen off at the airport by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi.

SRI LANKA

SRI LANKA, CHINA TO COLLABORATE IN AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

BK1512372 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Sri Lanka will collaborate with China in an intermediate technological project connected with agriculture. The minister of irrigation, power and highways, Mr Gamini Dissanayake, has said that he will be heading a team to China to study their major projects. China has machines used for transplanting paddy and several small irrigation schemes having small hydroelectric pumps. It is expected that the joint project would be started by the end of this year.

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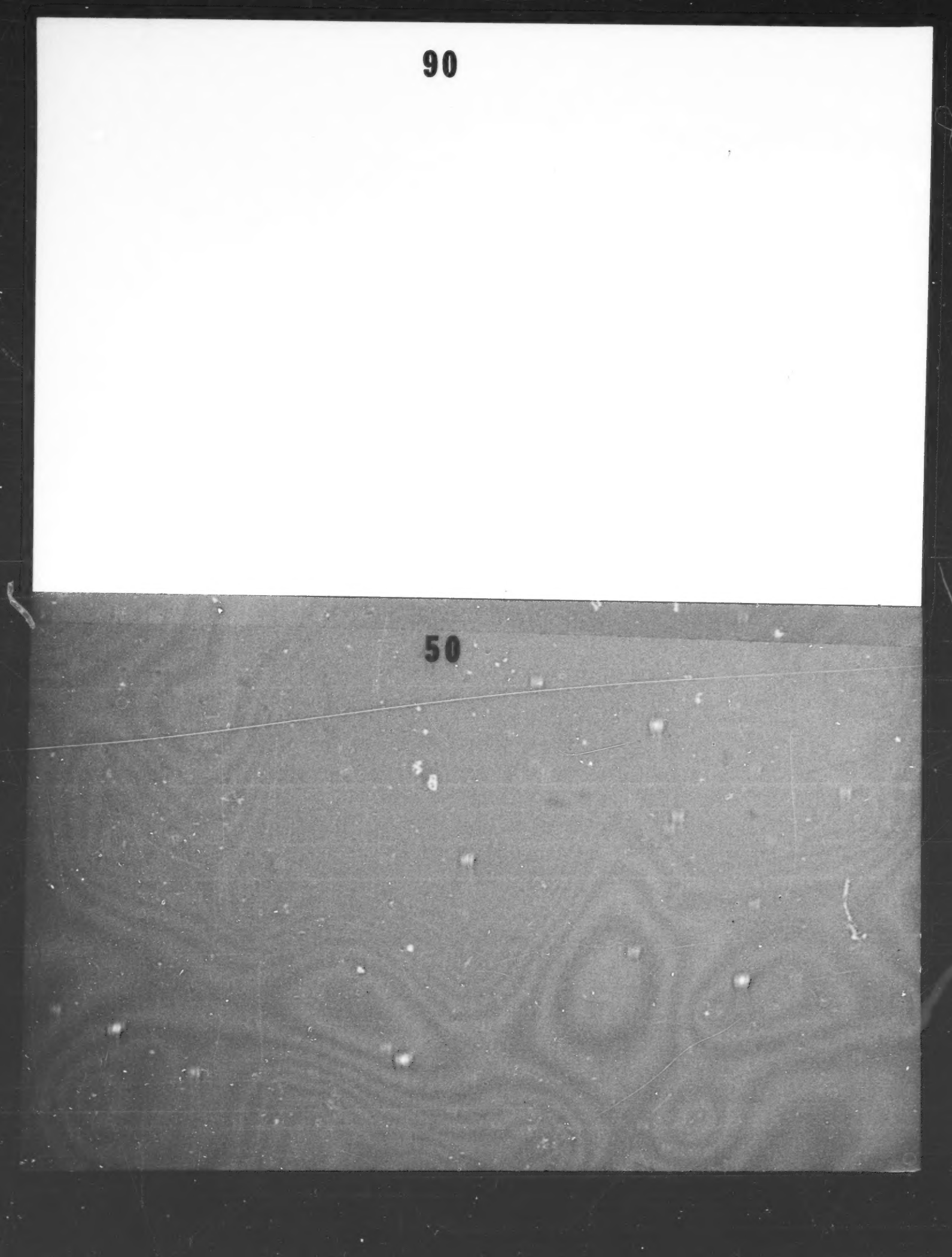
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